DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 215 818 RC 013 319

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TITLE Evaluation of the Forest Valley Outdoor Education Centre Regarding Elementary Teacher Development and Attitude Change. Section II: Results of Elementary Teacher and Principal Surveys.
INSTITUTION North York Board of Education, Willowdale (Ontario).
PUB DATE Jul 77
NOTE 112p.

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC05 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Administrator Attitudes; Attitude Change; Classroom Research; *Curriculum Development; *Educational Change; Educational Resources; Elementary Education; Faculty Development; Foreign Countries; *Outdoor Education; Principals; Questionnaires; Tables (Data); *Teacher Attitudes
IDENTIFIERS Canada; *Forest Valley Outdoor Education Centre ON

ABSTRACT

Data are presented from a survey conducted February 1977 of special education, kindergarten, and third and fifth grade teachers (103) who visited Forest Valley Outdoor Education Centre and their principals (28) concerning their perceptions of the degree to which outdoor experience at the Centre effected alterations in the regular classroom program. The majority of the document is comprised of two sections which provide data tables (57 for teachers and 41 for principals) to illustrate results of surveys. The results section indicates that a condensation of the main response patterns of both teachers and principals can be found in another document, "Evaluation of the Forest Valley Outdoor Education Centre Regarding Elementary Teacher Development and Attitude Change, Section I - Summary of Results." Appendices include a form letter sent to teachers explaining the survey, and complete texts of the elementary teacher questionnaire and elementary principal questionnaire used in the Survey. (ERB)

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North York

Board of Education

RESEARCH

REPORT

ED215818

EVALUATION OF

THE FOREST VALLEY OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

REGARDING

ELEMENTARY TEACHER DEVELOPMENT

AND

ATTITUDE CHANGE

SECTION II

RESULTS OF

ELEMENTARY TEACHER AND PRINCIPAL SURVEYS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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M. Rowan

July, 1977

Department of Educational Research and Development

RC 013319

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EVALUATION OF THE FOREST VALLEY OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE REGARDING ELEMENTARY TEACHER DEVELOPMENT AND ATTITUDE CHANGE

Purpose

The purpose of this study is to gather information concerning teacher and principal perceptions of the degree to which the outdoor experience at Forest Valley had effected alterations in the regular classroom program. This survey will also aid in assessing changes in teacher and principal awareness of the value, operation and integration of Forest Valley's outdoor program with regular classroom programs.

Background and Focus

The Forest Valley Outdoor Education Centre began ten years ago with its principle focus on providing inner-city school students with the opportunity to experience an outdoor setting. Eventually, the facilities were extended on a voluntary basis, to provide service to all levels of schools (kindergarten to grade thirteen) in North York. By 1969-70, the Centre reached a maximum usage of 79,200 student visits per school year. However, due to the increase of other outdoor educational facilities in and around Metropolitan Toronto, the Centre has been predominantly used by elementary schools. At the same time the staff at the Centre have included a daily program for Special Education (behavioural students and low multiple handicapped) students. As well, they have developed a set of goals for its operation which focus on providing assistance to teachers and their support staff.

Besides the services provided to elementary students since 1969, the Centre has also provided teachers with a variety of different ways to develop their skills in outdoors, ranging from Ministry of Education credit courses in Outdoor Education (1969-73), individual school staff orientation, professional development seasonal outdoor workshops and consultative resources.

Until September 1976, the Forest Valley Outdoor Education Centre operated on a voluntary basis. Since September 1976, bookings have been allocated to each Family of Schools in North York to facilitate busing arrangements.

Due to the frequent use of Forest Valley Outdoor Centre by elementary schools, it seems that the teachers, students and principals have found the resources and facilities of benefit to their regular problems. Principals of schools who have had teachers using the Centre for a number of years, should now be capable of assessing the long range benefits that are, or are not being derived by their staff and community.

One aspect of its operation which has been measured is The "Lasting Impact" of a One Week Outdoor Education Program at Forest Valley on grades 4 and 4 students (Taylor 1973) and grades 1, 3 and 4 (Mawson 1973), Research Department, North York Board of Education. This study concluded that "students tend to remember best and appreciate those aspects of the trip which stress outdoor activity and de-emphasize the types of activity which they regularly experience in the classroom."

To date, little evaluation has been undertaken on the relation between one day visits to the Centre and:

1) the effect it has on changing the attitude of teachers and principals.

2) the effect it has on initiating change in the regular elementary school and special education programs following visits to a centre.

3) the long-lasting benefits elementary school principals perceive their staff and school programs have derived after several years of participating in the Forest Valley programs.

The study, therefore, focuses on gathering information concerning:

1) To what extent do principals and teachers perceive they have altered the classroom program?

2) To what extent do principals and teachers feel that the programs and resources at the Centre assist in developing a program which integrates outdoor activities with regular classroom activities?

3) To what extent do principals and teachers believe that the goals, programs and resources at the Centre are meeting the needs of North York students and teachers?

Sample

The sample was chosen from the bookings at Forest Valley. All teachers accompanying kindergarten, grades 3, 5 and special education pupils to the Centre during the first half of October 1976, the last half of November 1976, and the first half of February 1977 and principals of the schools concerned, were included in the survey.

Procedure

A pilot was run in June 1976 by the Educational Research and Development Department to develop separate questionnaires for teachers and principals.

Prior to each sampling time, (October 1-15, 1976, November 15-30, 1976 and February 1-15, 1977), the names of teachers and schools were obtained from Forest Valley.

Approximately one week following the visit to the Centre, a questionnaires was sent to each teacher along with a letter asking for their co-operation and instructing them on what to do. If a teacher visited the Centre more than once during the sample periods, a questionnaire was sent out only after the first visit.

All principals of selected elementary schools were sent a questionnaire and covering letter in late February 1977.

RESULTS OF ELEMENTARY TEACHER SURVEY

For a condensation of the main response patterns of both teachers and principals, see Evaluation of Forest Valley Outdoor Education Centre Regarding Elementary Teacher Development and Attitude Change, Section I - Summary of Results.

The following section deals with the responses of elementary school teachers to the Forest Valley questionnaire. Teachers of special education, kindergarten and grades 3 and 5 were surveyed in three phases. A total of 103 elementary school teachers answered the questionnaire: 40 in October, 34 in November and 29 in February. All teachers surveyed had recently visited Forest Valley.

The table below shows the response rate for each phase of the survey.

TABLE 1

RESPONSE RATE

	K		3		5		Special Ed.		Total Sample		Response Rate of Total Sample
	Sent	Returned	Sent	Returned	Sent	Returned	Sent	Returned	Sent	Returned	
1st Phase (October)	32	19	17	12	11	4	11	5	69	40	58%
2nd Phase (November)	17	6	18	10	25	10	8	8	68	34	50%
3rd Phase (February)	5	4	10	8	10	8	14	9	39	29	74%
Total	54	29 (54%)	45	30 (67%)	46	22 (48%)	33	22 (67%)	176	103	59%

Background of Respondents

TABLE 2

GRADE TAUGHT

Kindergarten	Grade 3	Grade 5	Special Education
JK = 1 K = 28	Gr. 1 = 1 1-2 = 1 1-2-3 = 3 2 = 1 2-3 = 8 3 = 12 3-4 = 3 4 = 1	3-4-5 = 1 4-5 = 6 5 = 10 5-6 = 3 6 = 2	Behavioural = 4 Perceptual = 5 Developmental = 9 ESL - Grade 6 = 2 Primary Hearing Impaired = 1 Perceptual/ Developmental = 1
Total 29 (28%)	30 (29%)	22 (21%)	22 (21%)

Number of Teachers = 103

Teachers selected for the survey group were identified as teaching kindergarten, grade 3, grade 5 or special education. The table above shows that although the teachers are divided in four groups according to grade level taught, there is some variation within each sample group.

TABLE 3

SEX

Sex	Grade K	Grade 3	Grade 5	Special Education	Total No.	Total %
Male	29	4	9	3	16	16%
Female		24	12	19	84	81%
No Answer		2	1		3	3
Total	29	30	22	22	103	100%

Eighty-one percent of the teachers responding were female, 16% were male.

TABLE 4

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN NORTH YORK

Grade	Years of Experience						
	1	2-3	4-5	6-10	10+	N.A.	Total
K	1	6	7	8	7		29
3	3	5	4	9	7	2	30
5	3	2	5	8	3	1	22
Spec. Ed.	1	2	3	9	6	1	22
Total	8 (8%)	15(15%)	19 (18%)	34 (33%)	23 (22%)	4 (4%)	103 (100%)

Over half (55%) of the teachers surveyed had taught in the North York system for at least 6 years. Very few (8%) indicated that it was their first year teaching in the Borough.

TABLE 5

CLASS SIZE

No. of Pupils	Teachers				Total	
	K	Gr. 3	Gr. 5	Spec.Ed.	No.	%
0-10						
11-20	6	2	12	15	35	34
21-30	13	22	10	6	51	49
31-40	9	5		1	15	14
41-50	1	1			2	2
100 (ESL)				1*	1	1
Total	29	30	22	23	104	100

*One teacher has two classes.

Half the teachers surveyed (49%) reported that their class sizes ranged from 21-30 students. Thirty-four percent reported smaller classes, i.e., between 11 and 20 students, but a large number of this group (15 of 35 teachers) were special education teachers).

Frequency of Trips to Forest Valley

Teachers were asked first, how often they had taken their classes to Forest Valley in the past two years and second, how often in the past five years.

TABLE 6

A. IN THE PAST TWO YEARS

Frequency	K	3	5	Spec.Ed.	Total	
					No.	%
8 or more times	3	6	3	4	16	16
6-7 times	4	3	1	2	10	10
4-5 times	9	4	6	7	26	25
2-3 times	9	5	7	4	25	24
Once	3	10	5	5	23	22
Not at all	1	1			2	2
No answer		1			1	1
Total	29	30	22	22	103	100

The above table indicates that a majority of teachers took their classes to Forest Valley at least twice a year for the past two years

TABLE 7

B. IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS

Frequency	K	3	5	Spec. Ed.	Total	
					No.	%
8 or more times	12	13	11	10	46	45
6-7 times	1	-	-	4	5	5
4-5 times	5	2	2	1	10	10
2-3 times	-	2	2	-	4	4
Once	1	2	1	1	5	5
Not at All		2			2	2
No Answer	10	9	6	6	31	30
Total	29	30	22	22	103	100

Over the past five years, almost half the teachers (45%) indicated the first category: eight or more visits. Very few (9%) indicated three trips or fewer.

SECTION I

Teachers were asked to assess their most recent visit to Forest Valley both for themselves and for their students.

QUESTION 1: In your opinion, how worthwhile was your most recent visit to Forest Valley:

TABLE 8

A. FOR YOUR PUPILS?

Rating		Teachers				Total	
		K	3	5	Spec.Ed.	No.	%
Most worthwhile	1	11	12	11	15	49	48
	2	7	8	3	6	24	23
Worthwhile	3	11	10	7	1	29	28
	4			1		1	1
Worthless	5						
Total		29	30	22	22	103	100

TABLE 9

B. FOR YOURSELF?

Rating		Teachers				Total	
		K	3	5	Spec. Ed.	No.	%
Most worthwhile	1	11	9	5	11	36	35
	2	4	7	6	6	23	22
Worthwhile	3	13	14	8	5	40	39
	4	1		2		3	3
Worthless	5						
No Answer				1		1	1
Total		29	30	22	22	103	100

Virtually all teachers believe that the trip was worthwhile for themselves and for their students. It is evident, however, that teachers think students benefit somewhat more. Almost half (48%) said that the trip was "most worthwhile" for the students while only a third (35%) indicated "most worthwhile" for themselves.

QUESTION 2: a) Did you or your class formulate objectives prior to the last visit to Forest Valley?

TABLE 10

	Frequency				Total	
	K	Gr.3	Gr.5	Spec. Ed.	No.	%
Yes	26	27	20	19	92	89
No	3		1	3	7	7
No Answer		3	1		4	4
Total	29	30	22	22	103	100

Most teachers (89%) or their class had formulated objectives before their recent visit to Forest Valley.

b) If "Yes", list your primary objectives.

TABLE 11

Primary Objectives	Frequency				Total	
	K	Gr.3	Gr.5	Sp.E.	No.	%
Appreciation, awareness of nature, e.g., changing seasons.	18	16	6	7	47	51
Sensory awareness.	19	10	5	6	40	43
Development of ourdoor education skills, e.g., compass, cooking, fire building, orienteering.	3	10	15	7	35	38
Understanding nature - environment concerns, e.g. pollution.	3	9	10	8	30	33
Fun and play/exploration.	8	8	6	8	30	33
Specific studies to be completed.	1	2	-	4	7	8
Animal/bird/plant observation.	2	2	-	1	5	5
Language development.	-	1	-	2	3	3
Social interaction/build relationships.	-	1	-	2	3	3
Familiarizing with Forest Valley.	-	-	1	-	1	1
No answer.	3	3	1	-	7	8

Half of the teachers (51%) listed appreciation/awareness of nature as one of their primary objectives. Other objectives listed by at least a third of the teachers were sensory awareness (43%), development of outdoor skills (38%), understanding environmental concerns (33%) and play/exploration (33%).

QUESTION 2: c) Do you feel that you accomplished all/some/none of your primary objectives?

TABLE 12

Response	Frequency				Total	
	K	Gr.3	Gr. 5	Spec. Ed.	No.	%
All	7	27	14	15	63	61
Some	21		6	5	32	31
None			1		1	1
No answer	1	3	1	2	7	7
Total	29	30	22	22	103	100

Sixty-one percent of the teachers stated they accomplished all of their primary objectives during their last visit to Forest Valley.

d) If you answered "None", what were the major factors impeding you from accomplishing your objectives?

TABLE 13

Response	Frequency
Lack of time.	5
Animals not present.	2
Assigned fireplace unsatisfactory.	2
Weather.	2
Parents hopeless.	1
Lack of instruction about use of the area.	1
Map confusing.	1
Bus late.	1

A few of the teachers who answered "some" to question 2.c), also responded to this question.

Lack of time was the most frequently mentioned reason for not accomplishing the objectives of the visit.

QUESTION 3: a) For your objectives, did you find that the site at Forest Valley was:

TABLE 14

Rating		Frequency				Total	
		K	Gr. 3	Gr. 5	Sp. Ed.	No.	%
More than adequate	1	8	7	9	6	30	29
	2	7	14	4	10	35	34
Adequate	3	12	9	7	5	33	32
	4						
Inadequate	5			1		1	1
No answer		2		1	1	4	4
Total		29	30	22	22	103	100

Most teachers (95%) found the Forest Valley site "adequate" to "more than adequate" for accomplishing their objectives. One teacher rated the site "inadequate" but did not state the reason when asked in question 3. b).

QUESTION 4: a) Did you or your class plan specific activities to be carried out during the most recent visit to Forest Valley?

TABLE 15

Response	Frequency				Total	
	K	Gr. 3	Gr. 5	Spec.Ed.	No.	%
Yes	17	25	19	22	83	81
No	10	5	1		16	16
No answer	2		2		4	4
Total	29	30	22	22	103	100

Four out of every five teachers stated that specific activities had been planned prior to their most recent visit. Sixteen percent of the teachers said neither they nor their class had planned specific activities.

4. b) If "Yes", list these activities and indicate the success of each.

TABLE 16

Activity	Frequency (N=83)				Total	
	Very Successful	Successful	Unsuccessful	Not Sure	No.	%
Carrying out specific projects, e.g., cooking, sketching, fire building, tree measuring, print leaves, scavenger hunt.	34	37	5	1	77	93
Observation, e.g., noticing leaves, bark, colours.	24	43	4	-	71	86
Walk or hike.	24	20	2	1	47	57
Play in leaves, playground or trampoline.	22	7	1	-	30	36
Collecting, e.g., leaves, seeds.	9	5	1	-	15	18
Tobogganing/snowshoeing.	6	1	8	-	14	17
Socializing.	1	-	-	-	1	1
Developing vocabulary.	1	-	-	-	1	1

The activities most frequently planned by the teachers were: specific projects (93%), observation of nature (86%) and walks/hikes (57%). More than 90% of all the planned activities were "successfully" or "very successfully" completed during the classes' recent visit with the exception of the tobogganing/snowshoeing activity.

4. c) What methods or techniques did you use to evaluate the relative success of your activities at Forest Valley?

TABLE 17

Method	Frequency				Total (N=83)	
	K	Gr.3	Gr.5	Sp.E.	No.	%
Observation of pupil reaction (interest, enjoyment).	11	15	13	19	58	70
Discussion.	14	12	11	10	47	57
Charts, pictures, stories.	13	15	10	8	46	55
Completion of specific projects, e.g., compass course.	-	1	6	2	9	11
Quizzes (oral or written).	1	3	-	1	5	6
No answer.	6	3	2	1	12	14

The techniques most frequently used by teachers to evaluate outdoor activities are observation of pupil reaction (70%), discussion (57%) and charts, pictures and stories (55%). Only six percent of the teachers mentioned quizzes (oral or written) as a means of evaluating outdoor activities. Most teachers listed more than one evaluation method.

QUESTION 5: a) Would you repeat any of the activities you listed in 4 (b) in subsequent years with the same grade levels? (List activities and state yes or no to each).

TABLE 18

Activities	Frequency				Total (N=103)	
	K	Gr.3	Gr.5	Sp. E.	No.	%
a) Yes						
Observing.	29	17	17	17	80	78
Carry out specific projects.	2	23	10	19	54	52
Walk and hike.	9	10	6	13	38	37
Play/trampoline.	9	10	-	18	37	36
Collecting.	2	3	2	3	12	12
Tobagganing.	2	-	-	-	2	2
Vocabulary and sentence building	-	-	1	-	1	1
b) No						
Observing.	-	-	1	2	3	3
Carry out specific projects.	-	-	2	-	2	2
No answer	9	5	2	1	17	17

A majority of the teachers indicated that they would repeat their observing (78%) and specific project (52%) activities with the same grade level. These two activities were also listed by a few staff (2-3%) as not being repeated in future years.

More than one-third of the teachers will also repeat the walk/hike (37%) and play/trampoline (36%) activities.

QUESTION 5: b) What new activities would you add to your program in subsequent years at the same grade level(s)?

TABLE 19

Activities	Frequency				Total (N=103)	
	K	Gr.3	Gr. 5	Sp.E.	No.	%
Outdoor studies, observing, sketching, collecting, recording.	6	10	13	11	40	39
Sports/scavenger hunt/commando course/orienteering.	3	7	4	8	22	21
Camping.	3	4	7	6	20	19
Erosion/pollution.	-	2	-	2	4	4
Fire building	1	-	-	2	3	3
Activities appropriate to season.	-	1	-	1	2	2
Activities to fit into reading program.	-	-	-	1	1	1
No answer.	20	15	-	5	40	39

The three new activities most teachers (79%) wished to include are outdoor studies (39%), sports (21%) and camping (19%).

QUESTION 6: a) During your most recent visit, which of the following outdoor areas at Forest Valley did your class use?

TABLE 20

Areas	Frequency				Total (N=103)	
	K	Gr. 3	Gr. 5	Sp.E.	No.	%
Forest	26	22	15	17	80	78
River Area	22	25	16	17	80	78
Playground	24	20	5	17	66	64
Meadow	12	21	11	12	56	54
Swamp/Pond	5	11	9	10	35	34
Tobogganing Hill	29	1	2	-	32	31
Commando Course	3	11	8	6	28	27
Cookout Areas	1	6	7	12	26	25
Bird Feeding Station				3	3	3
Trampoline/Gym				3	3	3
Shelter	1				1	1
Snack Area	1				1	1
Orienteering			1		1	1

Note: Two teachers said they "could not find the swamp or cookout area".

The four areas at Forest Valley most frequently used by the teachers and their students were the forest (78%), river area (78%), playground (64%) and meadow (54%). Less frequent use (25-34%) was made of the swamp, toboggan hill, commando course and cookout areas. All kindergarten teachers (29) indicated they had used the toboggan hill.

6. b) At which area did you spend the most time? (If your class spent equal time in more than one area, place a check mark beside these areas).

TABLE 21

Areas	Frequency				Total (N=103)	
	K	Gr. 3	Gr. 5	Sp. E.	#	%
Forest	23	22	12	15	72	70
River Area	11	17	6	8	42	41
Playground	17	11	2	5	35	34
Meadow	3	14	9	6	32	31
Swamp and Pond	2	5	7	5	19	18
Cookout Areas		6	7	2	15	15
Commando Course	1	4	1	3	9	9
Tobogganing Hill	-	1	2	-	3	3
Fresh Snow Area for sketch and games				2	2	2
Trampoline				2	2	2
Orienteering			1		1	1

The only area at Forest Valley where a majority of teachers (70%) spent "the most time" was the forest. Approximately one-third indicated the most time was spent at the river area (41%), playground (34%) and the meadow (31%). Fewer teachers spend most of their time at the swamp/pond (18%), cookout area (15%). Very few spend a long time at the sports areas, e.g., commando course (9%), toboggan hill (3%), trampoline (2%) and orienteering (1%).

6. c) If visiting Forest Valley with the same grade level in subsequent years, will you use the same areas?

TABLE 22

Response	Frequency				Total	
	K	Gr.3	Gr.5	Sp.E.	No.	%
Yes	27	28	20	21	96	93
No	2	2	1		5	5
Yes & No			1	1	2	2
Total	29	30	22	22	103	100

At least 93% of the teachers indicated they would use the same areas of Forest Valley if they take the same grade level again.

d) If "No", what would you change?

TABLE 23

Activity	Frequency (N=7)
Use other areas (swamp, meadow, pond, forest, etc. instead of river.)	4
Change areas depending on season.	2
Explore areas we have not seen.	1
Use other areas if we had a full day.	1
Change activities as children grow and become more accustomed to school group.	1

Four of the seven teachers responding said that they would select an alternate area to the river for their activities. Two teachers indicated that they would change their areas depending on the season.

QUESTION 7: a) Did you find the Forest Valley Staff:

TABLE 24

	Response	Frequency				Total	
		K (N=29)	Gr.3 (N=30)	Gr.5 (N=22)	Sp.E. (N=22)	No.	%
i) helpful in planning your last visit?	Yes	6	11	5	7	29	28
	No	19	19	15	15	68	66
	No answer	4		2		6	6
ii) helpful during your last visit?	Yes	6	11	10	12	39	39
	No	17	18	11	8	54	52
	No answer	6	1	1	1	10	10
iii) helpful after your last visit?	Yes	3	3	2	2	10	10
	No	17	24	17	16	74	72
	No answer	9	3	3	4	19	18

More teachers said the Forest Valley staff was helpful during their recent visit (39%) than in planning (18%) or after their visit (10%). A majority of the teachers stated that the staff was not helpful during all three time periods (52-72%).

7. b) If you answered "No", check which of the following was your main reason for not using the staff:

TABLE 25

	Response	Frequency				Total	
		K	Gr.3	Gr.5	Sp.E.	No.	%
i) in planning your last visit? (N=68)	Did not need staff help.	17	18	-	12	12	47
	Did not know staff help was available.	2	-	-	3	5	7
	Requested staff help but it was not provided.	-	1	-	-	1	1
	No answer.	-	-	15	-	15	22
ii) during your last visit? (N=54)	Did not need staff help.	15	12	6	6	39	72
	Did not know staff help was available.	2	4	-	-	6	11
	Requested staff help but it was not provided.	-	2	2	2	6	11
	No answer.	-	-	3	-	3	6
iii) after your last visit (N=74)	Did not need staff help.	13	19	13	15	60	81
	Did not know staff help was available.	4	4	4	1	13	18
	Requested staff help but it was not provided.	-	1	-	1	2	3

The most frequent reason given for the lack of help was that teachers did not need help in planning (47%), during (72%) or after their recent visit (81%). Eleven percent said they requested help during their visit but it was not provided. Others did not know help was available for planning (7%), during (11%) or after their visit (18%).

QUESTION 8: a) Prior to or during your most recent class visit, did you use any of the following resources of Forest Valley?

TABLE 26

	Response	Frequency				Total (N=103)	
		K (N=29)	Gr.3 (N=30)	Gr. 5 (N=22)	Sp.E. (N=22)	No.	%
i) the professional library?	Yes	2	2	5	1	10	10
	No	19	25	17	19	80	78
	No answer	8	3	-	2	13	13
ii) the pre-planned activities?	Yes	3	7	5	7	22	21
	No	18	18	16	14	66	64
	No answer	8	5	1	1	15	15
iii) the prepared units of study?	Yes	-	7	3	3	13	13
	No	19	20	17	16	72	70
	No answer	10	3	2	3	18	17
iv) the equipment and supplies?	Yes	1	4	13	8	26	25
	No	17	21	6	12	56	54
	No answer	11	5	3	2	21	20
v) other resources used.							
	Heated hut.	1	-	-	-	1	1
	Orientation hour.	2	-	-	-	2	2
	Crazy carpets.	2	-	-	-	2	2
	Sled & tobaggans.	1	-	-	-	1	1
	Wood.	-	-	-	1	1	1

Only a small number of the teachers surveyed (10-25%) indicated that they had made use of available resource materials prior to or during their visit to Forest Valley. The most frequently used resources were the equipment and supplies (25%) and pre-planned activity guides (21%). Only 13% of the teachers used the prepared units of study and 10% the professional library. The majority of teachers (54-78%) did not make use of the listed resources.

8. b) If "No", which one of the following was your main reason for not using the resource?

TABLE 27

	Response	Frequency				Total	
		K	Gr.3	Gr. 5	Sp. E.	No.	%
i) the professional library (N=80)	Did not need resource.	15	21	15	13	64	80
	Did not know resource was available.	4	4	1	5	14	18
	Requested resource but it was not provided.	-	-	-	-	-	-
	No answer.			2		2	3
ii) the pre-planned activities (N=66)	Did not need resource.	9	14	10	12	45	68
	Did not know resource was available.	9	4	4	2	19	29
	Requested resource but it was not provided.	-	-	-	-	-	-
	No answer.			2		2	3
iii) the prepared units of work (N=72)	Did not need resource.	11	13	-	12	36	50
	Did not know resource was available.	8	7	-	4	19	26
	Requested resource but it was not provided.	-	-	-	-	-	-
	No answer.	-	-	17	-	17	24
iv) the equipment & supplies, e.g. tents, compasses, etc. (N=56)	Did not need resource.	16	18	4	11	49	88
	Did not know resource was available.	1	3	-	1	5	9
	Requested resource but it was not provided.	-	-	2	-	2	3

Most of the teachers who said "No" in question 8. a) either did not need the Forest Valley resources (50-88%) or did not know the resources were available (9-29%).

QUESTION 9: Why was Forest Valley selected as the outdoor site for your most recent visit?

TABLE 28

Reasons	Frequency				Total (N=103)	
	K	Gr.3	Gr.5	Sp.E.	No.	%
Close to buses, available.	12	17	16	15	60	58
Appropriate facilities and space.	12	19	13	10	54	52
New, stimulating experience.	4	4	1	7	16	16
Familiar with site.	2	3	5	4	14	14
Day assigned, only day alloted.	5	2	1	2	10	10
Safe.	2	-	2	-	4	4
Recommended by fellow staff.	-	1	1	-	2	2
Help offered, preview tour by Forest Valley staff.	-	1	1	-	2	2
Personal preference.	-	1	-	-	1	1
Enjoyable.	-	-	-	1	1	1

More than half of the teachers selected Forest Valley because of its availability, closeness to buses (58%) and its facilities and space (52%). Other less frequent reasons given for the selection were new, stimulating experiences (16%), familiarity with the site (14%) and it was the day assigned (10%).

QUESTION 10: How frequently have your pupils referred to events at Forest Valley since your last visit?

TABLE 29

Frequency	Frequency of Teacher Response				Total (N=103)	
	K	Gr.3	Gr.5	Sp.E.	No.	%
0 times a day.	10	6	6	5	27	27
1 - 2 times a day.	17*	20**	13	13	63	61
3 - 5 times a day.	-	1	3	1	5	5
More than 5 times a day.	-	-	-	1**	1	1
No answer.	2	3	-	2	7	7

*in this category individuals added:
- "for 2 - 3 days".
- "for 2 times a day - but some days not at all".
- "children talked about it frequently after their trip".

**One said . "during visit week only".

The majority of the teachers (61%) indicated that their pupils referred to events only once or twice per day following their visit. One-quarter of the student groups did not make any reference to events at Forest Valley within two or three weeks of their trip.

QUESTION 11: If after visiting Forest Valley, you make mention of the events that transpired there, of which program area(s) are you generally speaking? (List program areas).

TABLE 30

	Frequency				Total (N=103)	
	K	Gr.3	Gr.5	Sp.E.	No.	%
Science or mathematics.	10	16	5	7	38	37
Language.	8	7	3	8	26	25
Art, including music.	5	3	1	3	12	12
Social studies.	1	1	4	1	7	7
Gym - fitness.	1	2	2	1	6	6
Development of senses and relationships.	2	1	-	-	3	3
School areas, e.g., forest, playground.	-	-	-	1	1	1
Discussion groups.	1	-	-	-	1	1
Geography.	-	-	1	-	1	1
Individual projects.	-	-	-	1	1	1
Question misinterpreted.	9	5	6	-	20	19
No answer.	8	7	14	-	29	28

Teachers experienced some trouble with the interpretation of this question resulting in some teachers not answering the question (28%) and others listing only the area at Forest Valley where they had taken their classes (19%).

The program areas teachers most frequently referred to following their visit were science/ mathemathics (37%), language (25%) and art, including music (12%).

QUESTION 12: What did your pupils like most about a visit to Forest Valley?

TABLE 31

Response	Frequency				Total (N=103)	
	K	Gr.3	Gr.5	Sp.Ed.	No.	%
Playground.	22	13	5	5	45	44
Freedom to run/explore.	6	12	6	10	34	33
Natural areas - forest	8	11	3	5)		
- others	-	1	1	1)	30	29
Activities - cookout/fire	1	6	3	4)		
- others, e.g. - orienteering, scavenger hunt, hike, camp craft and commando course		2	4	2)	22	21
Facilities - Hot chocolate	2	2	-	1)		
- others e.g. - bus ride, microscope, trampoline, warm hut	3	-	-	2)	10	10
Change of environment.	4	2	3	-	10	10
All of it.	-	1	-	2	7	7
Animals.	-	1	-	-	1	1
Security.	-	-	-	1	1	1
No answer.	-	-	3	2	5	5

Twenty-two of the twenty-nine kindergarten teachers together with a number of teachers from the other grades (44%) indicated that their pupils liked the playground most of all. A third of the teachers thought their pupils enjoyed the freedom to run and explore while others said students enjoyed the natural areas sepecially the forest (29%) and different skill activities including sports (21%) more than anything else.

QUESTION 13: What did your students like least about a visit to Forest Valley?

TABLE 32

Response	Frequency				Total (N=103	
	K	Gr.3	Gr.5	Sp.E.	No.	%
Lack of - washrooms	3	2	1	2		
- drinking water	1	1				
- hot drinks				1		
- hills to climb			1			
- things to play on	3	1				
- animals, birds	2					
- space (crowded)	2		1			
- proper sized snowshoes			1		22	21
Restrictions - having to stay together		1		1		
- climbing hills, trees, etc.		2				
- boundaries			2			
- imposed by teachers			2			
- taking only 1 leaf home				1	9	9
Weather cold		4	2	3	9	9
Time, short	1	1	5	2	9	9
Buses late/leave early		1	1		2	2
Long walk to/from pond	2	2	1		5	5
Work - assigned			1			
- make written records		1	1	2		
- too structured			1		5	5
Lack of supervision - in playground	2					
- with other groups		1		1	4	4
Dirty/untidy	2	1			3	3
Fear of getting lost	1				1	1
Commando course			1		1	1
Changes in plans				1	1	1
No answer	15	13	6	6	40	39

Twenty-one percent of the teachers, half of whom were kindergarten teachers, said their students' greatest problem was the lack of facilities, e.g., washroom, drinks and things to play on. Fewer teachers believe their students liked the personal restrictions place on them (9%) and shortness of time (9%) least of all. More than a third of the teachers (39%) did not list any student dislikes of Forest Valley.

SECTION II

This section deals with your past experiences in outdoor education with special reference to Forest Valley.

QUESTION 14: Since you began using Forest Valley, do you feel that your confidence in your ability to teach outdoors has:

TABLE 33

	Frequency				Total	
	K	Gr.3	Gr.5	Sp.E.	No.	%
Increased?	15	18	17	17	67	65
Decreased?	-	-	1	-	1	1
Not changed?	9	9	1	4	23	22
Don't know.	4	-	3	1	5	5
Total	29	30	22	22	103	100

Two-thirds of the teachers feel more confident in their ability to teach outdoors while twenty-two percent feel their confidence has not changed.

QUESTION 15: a) Have you altered your classroom teaching methods as a result of your visits to Forest Valley?

TABLE 34

	Frequency				Total	
Response	K	Gr.3	Gr.5	Sp.E.	No.	%
Yes	3	6	9	8	26	25
No	22	24	11	12	69	67
Yes/No	1			1	2	2
No answer	3		2	1	6	6
Total	29	30	22	22	103	100

Two thirds of the teachers believe their visits to Forest Valley have not caused them to alter their classroom teaching methods. One-quarter said they had changed their methods of teaching.

15. b) If "Yes", list the type(s) of changes in teaching methods you have made and and indicate in which program areas these changes occured?

TABLE 35

Program Area	Change in Teaching Method	Frequency				Total	
		K (N=3)	Gr.3 (N=6)	Gr.5 (N=9)	Sp.E. (N=8)	No. (N=26)	%
Science	- More outdoor observing.	3	4	6	3	16	62
Language Arts	- Experiment with ideas in Forest Valley booklet.		1				
	- Integrate subjects.			2			
	- More natural science orientation.				2		
	- Story writing and expression better if practiced after an experience.				2	7	27
Outdoor Ed.	- More camping, winter sports, etc.			2	2	4	15
Social/Environment Studies	- More individual activities.			2			
	- Comparison teaching.		2			4	15
All areas	- Use of outdoor materials indoors.	2					
	- Integrating subjects under a theme.			1			
	- Less structure to activities.				1	4	15
Art	- Integrate in different subject areas.				2	2	8
ESL	- Encourage activities related to outdoors and discussion of theme.				2	2	8
Mathematics	- Comparison teaching.		1			1	4

Sixteen of the twenty-six teachers who said they had changed their classroom teaching methods have changed their science program to include more outdoor observing.

In the other program areas, more outdoor activities and increased integration of programs were the two most frequently listed changes.

QUESTION 16: a) Do you feel that through visiting Forest Valley you are able to make subjects covered in the regular classroom programs more relevant to the students?

TABLE 36

Response	Frequency				Total	
	K	Gr.3	Gr.5	Sp.E	No.	%
Yes	22	26	20	17	85	83
No	6	3	-	1	10	10
Yes/No	-	-	-	1	1	1
No answer	1	1	2	3	7	7
Total	29	30	22	22	103	100

Most teachers (83%) feel that they can make their classroom programs more relevant by visiting Forest Valley. Ten percent believe visits do not help build relevance in their classroom programs.

b) Please explain your response to 16. b)

TABLE 37

Explanation	Frequency				Total (N=103
	K	Gr.3	Gr.5	Sp.E.	
If answered "Yes"					
First hand experiences common to all students aids classroom program relevance, unifying factor.	16	23	19	14	72
Makes children more aware, sensitive to the environment.	-	1	-	2	3
Enhances teacher-student rapport.	-	-	1	-	1
Develops observation skills.	-	-	1	-	1
Develops social skills.	-	-	-	1	1
If answered "No"					
Subjects discussed at Forest Valley are general and common knowledge to most students.	1	-	-	-	1
Forest Valley is separate from school, connection is incidental.	1	-	-	-	1
Opportunity to visit is too limited (once a year).	-	-	-	1	1
No answer	11	6	1	4	22

Seventy-two of the eighty-five teachers who said "Yes" responded that visits to Forest Valley offered their students first hand experiences common to all students as well as acted as a unifying factor between programs.

QUESTION 17: a) When you visit Forest Valley do you:

TABLE 38

	Response	Frequency				Total (N=103)	
		K	Gr.3	Gr.5	Sp.E.	No.	%
i) Introduce your class to new topics?	Yes	20	26	17	20	83	81
	No	1	2	3	1	7	7
	Sometimes		1			1	1
	No answer	8	1	2	1	12	12
ii) Expand on topics previously introduced in the classroom?	Yes	25	25	11	21	82	80
	No	2	2	9		13	13
	Sometimes		1			1	1
	No answer	2	2	2	1	7	7
iii) Conclude topics developed in the classroom?	Yes	9	19	14	15	57	55
	No	11	9	6	3	29	28
	Sometimes		1			1	1
	No answer	9	1	2	4	16	16
iv) Conduct programs not related to classroom program?	Yes	10	17	15	16	58	56
	No	11	10	3	2	26	25
	Sometimes						
	No answer	8	3	4	4	19	18

Most teachers have either introduced new topics (81%) or expanded on topics previously introduced in the classroom (80%) during their visits to Forest Valley. A smaller majority indicated they had conducted programs not related to the classroom program (56%) or concluded topics developed in the classroom (55%).

17. b) Which of the methods do you perceive you use most often? (Check only one box).

TABLE 39

Methods	Requency				Total	
	K	Gr.3	Gr.5	Sp.E.	No.	%
i) Introduce your class to new topics.	8	6	2	5	21	20
ii) Expand on topics previously introduced in the classroom.	15	21	16	16	68	66
iii) Conclude topics developed in classroom program.	2	3	1	1	7	7
iv) Conduct programs not related to classroom program.	2		1	2	5	5
No answer.	2		2	1	5	5
Total	29	30	22	22	103	100

Two-thirds of the teachers indicated when they visit Forest Valley they "most often" expand on topics introduced in the classroom while only twenty percent use the Centre mainly to introduce new topics. Very few teachers use their visits frequently to conclude topics (7%) or carry out programs not related to their classroom programs (5%).

QUESTION 18: a) Has your use of Forest Valley led you to visit other outdoor sites?

TABLE 40

Response	Frequency				Total	
	K	Gr.3	Gr.5	Sp.E.	No.	%
Yes	12	8	11	11	42	41
No	13	19	9	8	49	48
No answer	4	3	2	3	12	12
Total	29	30	22	22	103	100

Forty-one percent of the teachers indicated their visits to Forest Valley had led them to use other outdoor sites. Approximately one-half (48%) believe their use of Forest Valley has not influenced them to visit other sites.

QUESTION 18: b) List in order, your preference of natural sites (including Forest Valley) that you and your classes have visited in the past two years. Also indicate the number of times your class has visited the site. (Do not include overnight trips).

TABLE 41

Site	Frequency*				Total (N=103)	
	K (N=29)	Gr.3 (N=30)	Gr.5 (N=22)	Sp.E.(N=22)	No.	%
Forest Valley	14 (6)	21 (5)	12 (5)	11 (7)	58	56
Local Park or Ravine	12 (7)	13 (5)	4 (6)	4 (6)	33	32
Wilket Creek	5 (2)	5 (2)	3 (1)	1 (3)	14	14
High Park	3 (1)	7 (2)	-	2 (3)	12	12
Horton's Tree Farm	2 (1)	4 (2)	-	1 (1)	7	7
Boyd Conservation	1 (2)	1 (1)	2 (1)	2 (1)	6	6
Cedar Glen Conservation	1 (1)	-	3 (1)	2 (1)	6	6
Toronto Island	1 (1)	3 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)	6	6
Downsview Dells	2 (6)	1 (1)	2 (3)	1 (1)	6	6
Pioneer Village	2 (2)	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)	5	5
Edwards' Gardens	-	2 (3)	1 (1)	1 (1)	4	4
Bruce's Mills Conservation	-	-	1 (3)	2 (3)	3	3
Bruce Trail	-	-	2 (2)	-	2	2
Other sites mentioned once**	1	2	3	11	17	17
No answer	7	6	8	3	24	23

*The number without brackets is the number of teachers who visited the site in the past two years. The number in brackets is the average number of times each teacher visited the site in the past two years.

** Other sites mentioned once were:

K	Gr. 3	Gr.5	Special Ed.
Apple Orchard (1)	Zoo (1) Betty Ann Bush (1)	Albion Hills (1) Bronte Prov. Park (3) Old Forest Hill Golf Club Site (1)	Scarborough Bluffs (1) Nottawasaga Valley (1) Claireville Conservation (1) Serena Gundy Park (4) Heart Lake (1) Ontario Place (3) Don Valley (8) Kew Beach (2) Teacher's Cottage (1)

.....continued

QUESTION 18. b) (continued)

A majority of teachers (56%) listed Forest Valley as their first choice. Approximately one-third of the teachers (32%) prefer to visit local parks and ravines especially teachers of kindergarten and grade three A number of other natural sites were mentioned of which the most frequently preferred were Wilket Creek (14%) and High Park (12%).

Over the past two years, teachers have averaged from 5 to 7 visits to the Centre and to the local parks and ravines.

The greatest diversity of different sites (24) was listed by the special education teachers.

QUESTION 19: How much time do you generally spend in preparation for a visit to Forest Valley?

TABLE 42

Amount of Time		Frequency				Total (N=103)	
		K	Gr.3	Gr.5	Sp.E.	No.	%
a) Personally	No time spent	3	1	-	1	5	5
	0 - 1 hour	21	12	11	14	58	56
	1 - 3 hours	5	16	5	4	30	29
	3 - 5 hours	-	1	3	1	5	5
	More than 5 hours	-	-	1	-	1	1
	No answer			2	2	4	4
b) With your Pupils	No time spent	2	-	-	-	2	2
	0 - 1 hour	25	15	5	11	56	54
	1 - 3 hours	2	9	9	6	26	25
	3 - 5 hours	-	4	2	2	8	8
	More than 5 hours	-	1	2	1	4	4
	No answer		1	4	2	7	7

Before visiting the Centre, the majority of teachers spend up to an hour in preparation, personally (56%), or with their students (54%). One-quarter of the teachers usually spend from one to three hours either organizing by themselves (29%) or with their students (25%). Fewer teachers (6%) spend more than three hours either personally or with their pupils (12%).

QUESTION 20: How frequently have you used the following Forest Valley support material?

TABLE 43

Support Material	Frequency of Use (N=103)								No Answer	
	Very Frequently		Frequently		Infrequently		Never			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Professional Library	1	1	4	4	19	18	62	60	17	16
Preplanned Activities	4	4	20	19	27	26	41	40	11	11
Prepared Units of Study	2	2	11	11	24	23	53	51	13	13
Equipment and Supplies	10	10	24	23	25	24	36	35	8	8

Fifty-seven percent of the teachers indicated they have used the equipment and supplies at least "infrequently". Fewer teachers have made use of the professional library (23%), preplanned activities (49%) and the prepared units of study (36%).

A majority of teachers have "never" used the professional library (60%) or the prepared units of study (51%). More than one-third of the teachers have "never" used the preplanned activities (40%) or the equipment and supplies (35%).

Equipment and supplies was the only support material used "frequently" or "very frequently" by more than a quarter of the teachers (33%).

QUESTION 21: a) What do you do when you encounter bad weather on a trip to Forest Valley?

TABLE 44

Response	Frequency*				Total (N=103)	
	K	Gr.3	Gr.5	Sp.E.	No.	%
Switch to bad weather program.	1	4	1	2	8	8
Alter your planned activities to suit conditions.	11	15	15	13	54	52
Carry on with planned activities and ignore weather.	8	4	6	8	26	25
Cancel.	7	3	1	5	16	16
No answer	6	4	2	2	13	13

*Fifteen percent of the teachers listed more than one choice. Their responses have been included in the table.

More than half of the teachers (52%) alter their plans depending on the weather while one-quarter usually carry on with the planned activities and ignore the weather. Twice as many teachers (16%) cancel their visit rather than switch to a bad weather program (8%).

b) If you answered "Cancel", why do you cancel?

TABLE 45

Reason	Frequency				Total
	K	Gr.3	Gr.5	Sp.E.	
Rain	6	4	1	3	14
Too cold and wet	1	3			4
Lack of adequate clothing	1	2		3	6
Mosquitoes				1	1
Total	8	9	1	7	25*

*Nine teachers who did not answer "Cancel" in 21. a) responded to this question. Their responses have been included in the table.

The most frequent reasons for cancelling a visit were due to the weather conditions (18 of 25) and lack of adequate clothing (6 of 25).

QUESTION 22: How did you first become involved in Outdoor Education?

TABLE 46

Reasons	Frequency				Total (N=103)	
	K	Gr.3	Gr.5	Sp.E.	No.	%
Work/Training in North York						
Forest Valley publicity/literature/workshops /programs/visits.	6	12	4	5		
Suggestions of colleagues/consultants.	7	5	3	4		
North York courses in Outdoor Education.	2	2	3	2		
Student interest/needs/limited knowledge of outdoors/importance of outdoor ed.	1	2	1	3		
Part of natural science/physical education program.	1	1	-	-		
Extension of use of natural site around school, gym/recess activities.	-	-	-	2		
Convenience/bus availability.	1	-	-	-		
Established programs.	-	-	-	1		
Trip already scheduled.	-	-	-	1	69	67
Personal Interest/Experience						
Previous camping experience	3	6	7	4		
Personal interest of teacher.	3	-	-	2		
Involvement with conservation.	-	-	1	-	26	25
Teacher Training/Work Outside North York						
Practice teaching.	1	1	4	-		
Working at another board.	-	-	1	-	7	7
No answer.	4	3	4	1	12	12

Note: Some teachers gave more than one reason for their involvement in outdoor education.

Two-thirds of the teachers first became involved in outdoor education through their work with or training in North York. The three most frequently mentioned methods were Forest Valley literature, workshops, visits, etc. (40%), suggestions from colleagues and consultants (27%) and courses in outdoor education offered by North York (13%).

Twenty-five percent of the teachers became involved through personal interest or previous camping experiences (77%).

Only seven percent said they became involved as a result of teacher training or work outside of North York.

QUESTION 23: a) Have you used any of the following Forest Valley staff support services in the past two years?

TABLE 47

Forest Valley Support Service	Response	Frequency				Total (N=103)	
		K	Gr.3	Gr.5	Sp.E.	No.	%
i) Visits to your school by a resource teacher.	Yes	4	11	9	10	34	33
	No	19	17	13	9	58	56
	No answer	6	2	-	3	11	11
ii) On-site instruction for teachers.	Yes	12	13	13	13	51	50
	No	13	12	6	6	31	36
	No answer	4	5	3	3	15	15
iii) Staff assistance with your class while at the Centre.	Yes	11	14	13	12	50	49
	No	15	14	9	7	45	44
	No answer	3	2	-	3	8	8
iv) Staff assistance with your class away from school, e.g., overnight trips, day programs away from school, etc.	Yes	-	-	4	1	5	5
	No	19	24	18	16	17	75
	No answer	10	6	-	5	21	20

Over the past two years half of the teachers have made use of the Forest Valley staff as on-site instructors for teachers (50%) and as assistants with their class (49%). Most teachers have not used the staff to assist them with their class at other sites and on overnight trips (75%) and have not had a resource person visit the school (56%).

QUESTION 23: b) If "No", what was your main reason for not using:

TABLE 48

Forest Valley Support Service	Reasons	Frequency				Total	
		K	Gr.3	Gr.5	Sp.E.	No.	%
i) Visits to your school by a resource teacher? (N=58)	Did not need service.	12	9	3	3	27	47
	Did not know service available.	7	8	8	6	29	50
	Requested service -was not provided.	-	-	-	-	-	-
	No answer.			2		2	2
ii) On-site instruction for teachers?(N=37)	Did not need service.	10	10	5	4	29	78
	Did not know service available.	3	2	1	2	8	22
	Requested service -was not provided.						
	No answer.						
iii) Staff assistance with your class while at the Centre? (N=45)	Did not need service.	10	8	5	5	28	62
	Did not know service available.	5	4	2	2	13	29
	Requested service - was not provided.		2	2		4	9
	No answer						
iv) Staff assistance with your class away from school? (N=77)	Did not need service.	15	19	8	10	52	68
	Did not know service available.	4	4	6	6	20	26
	Requested service - was not provided.		1	4		5	5
	No answer.						

The main reasons given by teachers who said they did not use the support services was they either did not need it (47 - 78%) or did not know the services were available (22-50%).

QUESTION 24: Do the following encourage you: (please respond to each of the following)

TABLE 49

	Frequency								Total	
	Yes		No		Don't Know		No Answer			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
a) To increase your frequency of use of outdoor facilities?										
i) My Family Asst. Supt.	8	8	39	38	46	45	10	10	103	100
ii) My school administration.	45	44	27	26	23	22	8	8	103	100
iii) My students.	60	58	28	27	7	7	8	8	103	100
iv) Parents of my students.	17	17	53	51	22	21	11	11	103	100
v) Other teachers	42	41	36	35	11	11	14	14	103	100
b) To take further training in outdoor teaching methods?										
i) My Family Asst. Supt.	7	7	41	40	42	41	13	13	103	100
ii) My school administration.	17	17	49	48	27	26	10	10	103	100
iii) Other teachers.	18	17	62	60	12	12	11	11	103	100
iv) Parents of my students.	6	6	67	65	16	16	14	14	103	100
v) Other (please specify) -myself.	4	4	1	1	1	1	-	-	6	6

More teachers have been encouraged to increase their use of outdoor facilities by their students (58%), school administration (44%) or other teachers (41%) than by the parents of their students (17%) or Assistant Superintendent of Schools (8%). Most teachers checked either "no" or "don't know" with regard to their Assistant Superintendent of Schools (83%) and parents of their students (72%).

Only a small percentage of the teachers (6-17%) indicated they have received encouragement to take further training in outdoor teaching methods. When asked, most teachers (72-81%) said either "no" or "don't know" to receiving encouragement from the people listed.

QUESTION 25: Have you taken part in any of the following professional activities at Forest Valley?

TABLE 50

Forest Valley Professional Activities	Response	Frequency				Total (N=103)	
		K	Gr.3	Gr.5	Sp.E.	No.	%
i) Staff Professional Development Day.	Yes	9	8	7	8	32	31
	No	17	20	11	8	56	54
	No answer	3	2	4	6	15	15
ii) Forest Valley day or evening workshops.	Yes	11	14	16	13	54	52
	No	14	15	4	9	42	41
	No answer	4	1	2		7	7
iii) Weekend workshops.	Yes	1	2	3		6	6
	No	21	24	15	19	79	77
	No answer	7	4	4	3	18	17
iv) Other : Outdoor Ed. Course				1		1	1

Over one-half of the teachers indicated they have taken part in a Forest Valley day or evening workshop (52%) while approximately one-third have attended during a staff Professional Development Day (31%). More than three-quarters (77%) have never attended a weekend workshop at Forest Valley.

One teacher commented she did not know workshops for teachers existed.

QUESTION 26: List the main problems or difficulties you experienced when planning and/or carrying out an outdoor program at Forest Valley.

TABLE 51

Problem/Difficulty	Frequency				Total (N=103)	
	K	Gr.3	Gr.5	Sp.E.	No.	%
Lack of time/more days, hard to get/ late buses.	8	11	6	7	32	31
Lack of Forest Valley staff/parental assistance, teacher training, supervision, e.g., tobogganing.	5	8	6	4	23	22
Students - behaviour, co-operation, improper clothing, want to pick flowers.	3	5	2	3	13	13
Lack of facilities/programs, e.g., washrooms, drink machines/orienteering courses not workable, maps and resources.	2	5	4	1	12	12
Weather/insects.	3	1	2	3	9	9
Crowded.	3	-	1	1	5	5
Restrictions, e.g., fences.	-	-	1	-	1	1
No answer.	12	8	7	7	34	33

The most frequent problems teachers have encountered while planning or visiting Forest Valley are the lack of time and buses (31%) and assistance from the Forest Valley staff and parents (22%). A few teachers have had difficulties with students who are not co-operative or properly dressed (13%) and the lack of facilities or programs for specific activities (12%).

One-third of the teachers did not list any major problems or difficulties.

QUESTION 27: What, in your opinion, is the greatest value(s) in outdoor education for students at your grade level?

TABLE 52

Values	Frequency				Total (N=103)	
	K	Gr.3	Gr.5	Sp.E.	No.	%
Arouse interest or curiosity in nature.	20	20	12	10	62	60
Experience for learning in other program areas, e.g., language and science.	10	15	7	9	41	40
Contribute to social/moral development.	8	9	9	8	34	33
Have fun, experience joy.	6	8	5	7	26	25
Teachers have option to see kids in new setting.		1		3	4	4
Change of environment.	1		1		2	2
Freedom of movement/expression.				1	1	1
Gives more time to be with individuals.				1	1	1
Getting students involved in the planning.			1		1	1
No answer.	1	1	3		5	5

The majority of elementary teachers (60%) believe outdoor education's greatest value is to arouse interest or curiosity in nature. Other values listed by at least one-quarter of the teachers were to provide experiences related to learning in other programs (40%), contribute to social/moral development (33%) and to have fun and experience joy (25%).

SECTION III

This section deals with your future considerations regarding outdoor education.

QUESTION 28: In planning an outdoor education experience for my grade level, I am looking for a site that offers:

TABLE 53

Site Offering	Frequency				Total (N=103)	
	K	Gr.3	Gr.5	Sp.E.	No.	%
Variety of environmental features/more natural surroundings/more water.	14	15	16	17	62	60
Variety of planned activities, programs, equipment, shelters, lunch and washroom facilities at the site.	1	10	8	4	23	22
Safety during play.	6	2	2	4	14	14
All features of Forest Valley on a larger scale.	3	6	2	2	13	13
Easily accessible, reliable means of booking with sufficient time for planning/unlimited visits.	3	3	2	1	9	9
Staff to introduce features or labels.	3	1	3	-	7	7
Simple to understand.	2	1	-	-	3	3
Overnight camping.	-	2	1	-	3	3
Inexpensive to visit.	-	-	1	-	1	1
No snack bars.	-	-	-	1	1	1
Freedom/few restrictions.	-	-	-	1	1	1
No answer	11	4	7	2	24	23

The one condition a majority of teachers (60%) look for when selecting an outdoor site is a variety of environmental features with more natural surroundings. Approximately one-quarter of the teachers (22%) are looking for sites which offer a greater variety of planned activities, program and facilities including equipment, shelters, lunch and washroom facilities. Fewer teacher are looking for safety during play (14%), a larger site with all the features of Forest Valley (13%), more time for planning and visiting (9%) and more staff aid (7%).

QUESTION 29: Indicate by means of a check in the appropriate square a) during which season(s) you prefer to visit Forest Valley and b) whether during that season(s) you prefer to spend a half day or a full day at the centre.

a) Preferred Season.

TABLE 54

Season	Frequency				Total (N=103)	
	K (N=29)	Gr.3 (N=30)	Gr.5 (N=22)	Sp.E. (N=22)	No.	%
Fall	20	18	10	11	59	57
Winter	10	14	11	10	45	44
Spring	17	20	12	10	59	57
No preference	8	8	9	10	35	34

There is a greater teacher preference for fall and spring (57%) than for winter visits to Forest Valley (44%). Kindergarten and grade 3 teachers expressed more desire for spring and fall than the other two groups. One-third of the teachers said they had "no preference" of season.

b) Length of visit preferred in each season.

TABLE 55

Season	Frequency								Total (N=103)		
	K (N=29)		Gr.3 (N=30)		Gr.5 (N=22)		Sp.E. (N=22)				
	Half Day	Full Day	Half Day	Full Day	Half Day	Full Day	Half Day	Full Day	Half Day	Full Day	No Pref.
Fall	20	-	9	8	3	7	3	7	35	22	2
Winter	10	-	12	2	7	4	7	3	36	9	-
Spring	15	2	8	12	2	9	1	8	26	31	2
No preference	6	2	2	5	-	8	2	7	10	22	3

The only season in which a majority of teachers from all grade levels preferred half day visits was during the winter (36 of 45). As well, kindergarten teachers indicated a strong preference for half day visits in the fall and spring. Five kindergarten teachers added comments that their preference for half days was "because of the age of the students".

More grade 5 and special education teachers indicated they preferred full days in the fall (14) and spring (17) than half days.

QUESTION 30: a) *Do you think a more structured activity program is needed for use by your grade level at Forest Valley?*

TABLE 56

Response	Frequency				Total	
	K	Gr. 3	Gr. 5	Sp.E.	No.	%
Yes	4	8	7	7	26	25
No	24	22	13	15	74	72
Sometimes	1	-	-	-	1	1
No answer			2		2	2
Total	29	30	22	22	103	100

Approximately three-quarters of the teachers (72%) believe there is no need for a more structured activity program at Forest Valley. Twenty-five percent think there should be more structuring.

b) If you answered "Yes" to the previous question, what types of program(s) do you desire?

TABLE 57

Types of Program	Frequency				Total (N=26)
	K	Gr.3	Gr. 5	Sp.E.	No.
More of an introduction, e.g., guides, labelling, printed matter.	3	2	2	-	7
More physical activities.	2	4	-	1	7
Ecology, science and conservation studies and instruction (packaged topics).	-	-	3	4	7
Programs for different levels and types of students, e.g., definite objectives and simpler activities for slow learners.	-	1	1	2	4
Compass and orienteering games.	-	-	-	1	1
Small and large group instruction.	-	-	1	-	1
Other Comments					
- Want other teachers to structure their programs.	2	1	2	2	7
- More assistance from Forest Valley staff /directory of staff best able to assist with Forest Valley programs.	-	2	1	-	3

Seven of twenty-six teachers wishing more structuring listed the following programs: more introductory materials, physical activities and study programs for ecology, science and conservation. Other programs mentioned were specific programs for different levels and types of students (4) and compass/orienteering games (1). Besides listing program, some teachers mentioned other types of structuring. Seven teachers requested that other teachers add more structuring to their programs and three teachers requested more assistance from the Forest Valley staff.

RESULTS OF ELEMENTARY PRINCIPALS SURVEY

Questionnaires were sent to the principals of North York elementary schools. Of the 94 sent out in late February, a total of 74 principal questionnaires were returned.

The following four tables indicate the population size of the schools (teachers and students), the length of time the respondents have been principals in North York and at their present schools.

TABLE 1

NUMBER OF TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL

Number of Teachers	Frequency	
	No.	%
Under 15	36	49
15 - 25	25	34
26 - 36	10	14
Over 36	3	4
Total	74	100%

Half of the principals responding are presently in schools with less than 15 teachers while another third were assigned to schools with 15 to 25 teachers.

TABLE 2

NUMBER OF PUPILS IN YOUR SCHOOL

Number of Pupils	Frequency	
	No.	%
Under 200	11	15
200 - 500	45	61
501 - 800	14	19
801 - 1100	4	5
Over 1100	-	-
Total	74	100%

The majority of schools involved (61%) ranged in population from 200 to 500 pupils. Very few principals responding (5%) indicated their school population was over 800.

TABLE 3

NUMBER OF YEARS AS PRINCIPAL OF THIS SCHOOL

Years of Experience	Frequency	
	No.	%
First year	17	23
2 or 3 years	23	31
4 or 5 years	19	26
6 - 7 years	7	9
More than 7 years	8	11
Total	74	100%

Eighty percent of the elementary principals have been at their present school less than 6 years.

TABLE 4

NUMBER OF YEARS AS PRINCIPAL
IN NORTH YORK

Years of Experience	Frequency	
	No.	%
First year	3	4
2 - 3 years	7	9
4 - 5 years	10	14
6 - 7 years	8	11
More than 7 years	46	62
Total	74	100%

Eighty-seven percent of the respondents have been an elementary principal in North York for more than 3 years. The majority have been principals with this Board for more than seven years (62%).

QUESTION 1 a): How important is the use of Forest Valley Outdoor Education Centre in fulfilling the goals of your school?

TABLE 5

Frequency	Rating						Total
	1 Very Important	2	3 Important	4	5 Not at all Important	No Answer	
Number	7	24	36	6	-	1	74
Percentage	9	32	49	8	-	1	100%

Most principals stated Forest Valley is "important" to "very important" in fulfilling their school's goals (90%).

b) List the goals of your school which are best supported by Forest Valley.

TABLE 6

Response	Frequency	
	No.	%
Student Development		
- To provide outdoor physical activities and skills.	21	28
- To develop social skills - co-operation, interaction, respect for others.	18	24
- To develop mental health and coping skills. e.g., self-reliance, self-discipline, enthusiasm to learn.	11	15
- To develop curiosity, observation skills, imagination, perception.	10	14
- To develop language.	9	12
Environmental Awareness		
- To appreciate natural environments/ the geography of the community.	37	50
- To appreciate man's impact on the environment.	15	20
Program Assistance		
- To integrate regular school programs.	15	20
- To provide a variety of learning experiences/"hands-on".	14	19
- To provide organized experiences/activities.	3	4

..... continued

TABLE 6 (continued)

Response	Frequency	
	No.	%
Staff Development		
- To familiarize staff with good outdoor education programs.	3	4
- To develop outdoor leadership skills of staff.	1	1
No answer	11	15

Four main goal areas were listed by the principals. The area most frequently mentioned as "most supported by Forest Valley" was student development including five goal statements related to students' physical (28%), social (24%), attitudinal (15%), personal skill development (14%) and language development (12%).

Most principals (70%) also believe the Centre is very supportive of their environmental goals by aiding both the students' appreciation of the natural environment (50%) and their understanding of man's impact on it (20%).

In the area of programs, a number of principals (43%) stated Forest Valley offers support to integrate the school's programs (20%) and organized activities (4%).

Very few principals (4%) mentioned the Centre's aid in staff development.

QUESTION 2: In your opinion, how worthwhile are outdoor activities at Forest Valley:

TABLE 7

Frequency of Response (N=74)	Rating					No Answer
	1 Most Worthwhile	2	3 Worthwhile	4	5 Worthless	
a) for your teachers?						
No.	22	24	24	2	-	2
%	30%	32%	32%	3%	-	3%
b) for your pupils?						
No.	27	30	15	2	-	-
%	36%	41%	20%	3%	-	-

Almost all principals believe Forest Valley activities are at least "worthwhile" for their students (97%) and their teachers (94%). Approximately one-third (30-36%) feel the Centre is "most worthwhile" for both.

QUESTION 3: a) Approximately what proportion of the teachers on your staff have involved their classes in outdoor activities at Forest Valley in the past two years?

TABLE 8

Percent of Teachers on Staff	Frequency	
	No.	%
0 - 25%	9	12
26 - 50%	22	30
51 - 75%	27	36
76 - 100%	16	22
Total	74	100%

Some principals had problems answering this question since almost one-quarter of them have been at their present school less than one year. Two-thirds of the principals indicated that between 25% and 75% of their staff had visited Forest Valley in the past two years. Twenty-two percent of the principals said more than three-quarters of their staff while only 12% said that less than one-quarter of the staff had been to the Centre in the past two years.

b) Would you like to see the proportion of your teachers using Forest Valley increase, decrease or remain the same?

TABLE 9

Response	Frequency	
	No.	%
Increase	34	46
Decrease	5	7
Remain the same	35	47
Total	74	100%

Approximately the same number of principals wish to maintain the present proportion (47%) as increase the proportion of staff (46%) using the Centre. Very few (7%) would like to decrease the amount of staff use.

QUESTION 4: a) Approximately what proportion of the teachers on your staff have involved their classes in outdoor education at other natural sites (excluding Forest Valley) in the past two years?

TABLE 10

Percent of Teachers on Staff	Frequency	
	No.	%
0 - 25%	22	30
26 - 50%	24	32
51 - 75%	15	20
76 - 100%	12	16
No answer	1	1
Total	74	100%

Sixty-two percent of the principals indicated that in the past two years less than half of their staff had taken their class to other natural sites. Only a small number (16%) indicate more than three-quarters of the staff had done so.

b) Would you like to see the proportion of your teachers using other natural sites to increase, decrease or remain the same?

TABLE 11

Response	Frequency	
	No.	%
Increase	49	66
Decrease	-	-
Remain the same	25	34
Total	74	100%

Principals desired either to maintain the present proportion (34%) or increase the proportion of staff visiting other natural sites (66%). None of the principals indicated they wished to decrease the proportion of staff who take their classes to other natural sites.

QUESTION 5: What proportion of the pupils enrolled in your school participated in outdoor education during this school year (1976-1977):

TABLE 12

Percent of Students	Frequency (N=74)	
	No.	%
a) at Forest Valley?		
Under 10%	-	-
10 - 30%	19*	26
30 - 50%	17	23
50 - 70%	20	27
70 - 90%	6	8
Over 90%	12	16
b) at other natural sites?		
Under 10%	9	12
10 - 30%	20	27
30 - 50%	20	27
50 - 70%	16	22
70 - 90%	3	4
Over 90%	6	8

*One principal said - by the end of June, 100% of the students will have participated.

Problems were experienced in responding to this question. The questionnaire was completed prior to the March holiday and as indicated above by the asterisk, some principals stated the present proportion while others responded based on the full school year (September 1976 - June 1977).

This year three-quarters of the elementary schools have involved between 10% and 70% of their pupils in Forest Valley activities. Sixteen percent of the schools have involved over 90% of their students.

Similarly, three-quarters of the schools have involved between 10% and 70% of their pupils in visits to other sites. A few principals (12%) reported less than 10% of their pupils will have visited a natural site other than Forest Valley this year.

QUESTION 6: Are you being encouraged in any way to increase your school's involvement in outdoor education programs: (please respond to each of the following).

TABLE 13

	Frequency											
	Yes		No		Yes/No		Don't Know		No Answer		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
a) at Forest Valley?												
by teachers	25	34	45	61	2	3	-	-	2	3	74	100
by pupils	15	20	47	64	1	1	5	7	6	8	74	100
by your Family Asst.Supt.	4	5	57	77	2	3	8	11	3	4	74	100
by parents of your pupils	5	7	53	72	1	1	10	14	5	7	74	100
Other (please state)												
gifted enrichment.	1	1										
results of past experiences.	1	1										
outdoor ed. program leader.	1	1										
co-ordinator.	1	1										
Forest Valley staff.	1	1	3	4			2	3			10	14
b) at other natural sites?												
by teachers.	35	47	37	50	1	1	-	-	1	1	74	100
by pupils.	20	27	47	64	1	1	1	3	4	5	74	100
by your Family Asstp.Supt.	5	7	55	74	1	1	7	9	6	8	74	100
by parents of your pupils.	7	9	46	62	1	1	13	18	7	9	74	100
Other (please state)												
by results of previous programs at Forest Valley.	1	1										
outdoor ed. program leader	1	1										
Forest Valley staff.	2	3	1	1							5	7

Most frequently, principals are being encouraged by teachers to increase the school's outdoor program at Forest Valley (34%) and other sites (47%). Approximately one-quarter of the principals have been encouraged by their pupils to visit the Centre (20%) or other sites (27%) Very few principals (5-9%) have been encouraged by either their Assistant Superintendent of School or the parents of their pupils.

The majority of principals indicated they had not been encouraged by any of the groups listed (50-77%). A few (7-14%) principals listed other encouraging staff, e.g., Outdoor Education Program Leader/Co-ordinator or Forest Valley Staff.

QUESTION 7: a) Do you perceive that there are any benefits accrued by pupils through visiting Forest Valley than could not have otherwise been obtained through the regular classroom program?

TABLE 14

Response	Frequency	
	No.	%
Yes	71	96
No	1	1
Don't know	1	1
No answer	1	1
Total	74	100%

Almost all principals (96%) believe that Forest Valley provides benefits to pupils beyond what can be obtained in the regular classroom program.

b) If you do perceive that there are benefits for your pupils, which grade level(s) from your school receive the greatest benefit?

TABLE 15

Grade Levels	Frequency (N=71)	
	No.	%
K	28	40
1	37	52
2	38	54
3	38	54
4	26	37
5	31	44
6	25	35
All levels equally	7	10
Special Ed. - Developmental	17	24
- Perceptual	11	15
- Behavioural	12	17
- Multiple Handicapped	3	4
- Trainable Retarded	1	1
E.S.L.	1	1
No answer	4	6

More than half of the principals (52-54%) believe pupils in the primary division (grades 1-3) receive the greatest benefit from visiting Forest Valley. Fewer principals indicated the junior division (35-44%) or kindergarten (40%). Several principals listed special education programs e.g., developmental (24%), perceptual (15%) and behavioural (17%) as also benefitting greatly.

QUESTION 7: c) Please list these important benefits.

TABLE 16

Benefits	Frequency (N=71)			
	K	Primary	Junior	Spec.Ed.
Aid in the development of social interaction, skills, e.g., co-operation, respect of others.	16	17	18	19
Provide an interesting curriculum with a variety of learning experiences/settings, "hands-on" experience.	14	14	11	21
Appreciation of man's impact on the environment - e.g., pollution, erosion, importance of conservation.	15	17	10	14
Integration of program with regular school curriculum.	10	12	12	12
Development of awareness/appreciation of the natural environment.	3	15	11	21
Importance of outdoor activity/sports. Fresh air/sunshine.	4	5	3	9
Aid language development, increase creativity (art).	6	6	2	4
Aid in the development of mental health and coping skills, e.g. self-reliance, self-discipline, help immigrants.	4	4	5	-
Increase powers of observation.	4	5	2	4
Informal setting for interaction/importance of seeing each other in different setting.	3	3	2	8
Use of facilities, e.g., special equipment, gym Use of Forest Valley staff help in planning.	3	3	3	-
Forest Valley increases use of other areas - generates enthusiasm, broadens outdoor education program.	-	1	1	-

No answer = 11

QUESTION 7: c) (continued)

The four benefits most frequently listed by principals as being important to all elementary grade levels and special education were:

- aid development of social skills
- provide variety of learning/"hands-on" experience
- appreciate man's impact on the environment
- aid program integration.

A fifth benefit (to develop awareness/appreciation of the natural environment) was also mentioned frequently except in relation to kindergarten.

Although seventy-one principals said there were benefits for their pupils (question 7:a), eleven did not list any.

QUESTION 8: a) Do you perceive that there are any benefits accrued by pupils through visits to other natural sites that could not have otherwise been obtained through regular classroom program?

TABLE 17

Response	Frequency	
	No.	%
Yes	70	95
No	1	1
Don't know	2	3
No answer	1	1
Total	74	100%

Almost all elementary principals (95%) believe that visits to natural sites provide benefits to students beyond what can be obtained in the regular classroom program.

QUESTION 8: b) If you answered "Yes", which grade level(s) from your school receive the greatest benefits?

TABLE 18

Grade Levels	Frequency (N=70)	
	No.	%
K	14	20
1	18	26
2	18	26
3	18	26
4	30	43
5	50	71
6	51	73
All levels equally.	5	7
Special Ed. - Developmental	13	19
- Perceptual	9	13
- Behavioural	7	10
- Multiple Handicapped	2	3
- Trainable Retarded	1	1
No answer.	5	7

More principals (43-73%) indicated the junior division rather than the primary division including kindergarten (20-26%) gains the most from visits to natural sites. Few principals listed special education as benefitting greatly, e.g., developmental (19%), perceptual (13%) and behavioural (10%).

QUESTION 8: c) Please list these important benefits.

TABLE 19

Benefits	Frequency (N=70)			
	K	Primary	Junior	Sp.Ed.
Aids the development of social interaction skills, e.g., co-operation, respect for others.	4	7	15	15
Further student development by means of residential overnight experience.	1	3	17	19
Greater variety of outdoor activities, e.g. camping, canoeing.	1	3	17	18
Development of awareness/appreciation of the natural environment.	5	7	13	12
Provide an interesting curriculum with a variety of learning experiences/settings, e.g."hands-on" experience; relevance, enjoyment, promote learning; enjoyment of learning for life.	3	3	10	9
Aid in the development of mental health and coping skills, e.g., self-reliance, self-discipline, helps immigrants.	3	4	9	6
Importance of outdoor activity - fresh air/sunshine, outdoor education skills, e.g., sports.	2	3	4	11
Integration of outdoor education with regular school programs.	3	3	7	4
Provide a different environment/exposure to things other than those at Forest Valley, e.g. flora, fauna. Enables comparison between natural sites; use of skills acquired at Forest Valley.	1	4	9	1
Awareness of man's impact on nature, e.g. pollution, erosion, importance of conservation.	2	3	4	2
Aid language development/creativity.	1	2	3	5
Staff working together, staff developing programs over an extended period.	-	-	3	6
More natural environment - less crowded than Forest Valley.	1	2	5	-
Develop powers of observation.	1	2	2	1
Easy access (easier than Forest Valley).	1	2	1	-
No answer = 15				

QUESTION 8: c) (continued)

Principals believe the junior division and special education pupils derive more important benefits from visits to other sites than pupils in kindergarten and the primary division. This is indicated by the principals' greater frequency of relating junior division and special education to most of the benefits listed in Table 19.

The two benefits listed as important for all elementary pupils were to aid development of social interaction skills and develop an awareness/appreciation of the natural environment. Other benefits of importance mainly to the junior division and special education pupils were:

- further student development by residential overnight experiences.
- greater variety of outdoor activities.
- provide a variety of learning/"hands-on" experiences.
- aid development of mental health/coping skills.
- provide/promote outdoor skills.

Fifteen of the principals who said "Yes" there are important benefits, did not respond to this question.

QUESTION 9: What priority do you give outdoor education programs in your school, relative to other programs?

TABLE 20

Frequency	Rating					Total
	1 Very High	2	3 Average	4	5 Very Low	
Number	1	26	40	6	1	74
Percentage	1%	35%	54%	8%	1%	100%

Eighty-nine percent of the elementary principals give outdoor education an "above average" or "average" priority in their school program. A few rated it of "below average" priority (8%) compared to other school programs.

QUESTION 10: Are you able to get sufficient time (bookings) at Forest Valley to:

TABLE 21

Level		Frequency				Total
		Yes	No	Don't Know	No Answer	
a) satisfy your pupil's needs?	i) at the primary level.	40 54%	30 41%	2 3%	2 3%	74 100%
	ii) at the junior level.	41 55%	27 36%	3 4%	3 4%	74 100%
b) satisfy staff requests?	i) at the primary level.	39 53%	29 39%	1 1%	5 7%	74 100%
	ii) at the junior level.	43 58%	24 32%	4 5%	3 4%	74 100%

Over half of the principals (53-58%) indicated their school receives sufficient bookings at Forest Valley to satisfy both pupil and teacher needs. Approximately one-third said "No" (32-41%). A slightly higher percentage of primary (41-39%) than junior division pupils and teachers (36-32%) do not obtain sufficient bookings.

QUESTION 11: a) Do you encourage your teachers to increase the involvement of their classes in outdoor education?

TABLE 22

Response	Frequency	
	No.	%
Yes	49	66
No	23	31
Yes/No	1	1
No answer	1	1
Total	74	100%

Two-thirds of the elementary principals encourage teachers at their school to increase their class involvement in outdoor education. Thirty-one percent indicated they do not promote increased involvement.

QUESTION 11: b) If "Yes", please state why you encourage more involvement.

TABLE 23

Reasons	Frequency (N=49)
Provide an interesting curriculum with a variety of learning experiences /settings, e.g., "hands-on" experience; relevance, enjoyment, promote learning, enjoyment of learning for life.	18
Man's impact on it - e.g., pollution, erosion, importance of conservation.	13
Integration of program with regular school curriculum.	12
Aid in the development of social interaction, skills, e.g., co-operation, respect for others.	10
Informal setting for interaction/importance of seeing each other in different settings.	8
Extension of home/school/environment/opportunity to visit areas that students would not ordinarily see.	8
Increase powers of observation.	7
Importance of outdoor activity, e.g., sports. Fresh air/sunshine.	5
To satisfy the stated goals/aims of our school program - P_1 J_1.	3
Aid language development, increase creativity (art).	2
Familiarize teacher with advantages of outdoor education programs.	2
No answer.	23

Eighteen of the forty-nine principals who said "Yes", encourage teachers to use outdoor activities to provide more variety of learning and "hands-on" experience. Other reasons frequently mentioned were:

- appreciate man's impact on the environment (13)
- integrate classroom programs (12)
- aid development of social skills (10)

Besides the ten areas related to pupils and school program, two principals mentioned the familiarizing of teachers with the advantages of outdoor programs.

Forty-seven percent of the principals did not list any reasons.

QUESTION 12: a) List in order your preference of natural sites (including Forest Valley) that classes from your school have visited over the past two years.

TABLE 24

Location	Frequency (N=74)	Location	Frequency
Forest Valley	58	Bruce Trail	2
Cedar Glen	30	Kelso Park	2
Albion Hills Field Centre	26	Ski Clubs	2
Local Ravine/Valley	23	Metro Zoo	2
Boyd Field Centre	15	Lakeshore (Beaches Area)	2
Toronto Island	10	Woodland Trail	2
Mono Cliffs	8	Doe Lake	2
Local Park	8	Richildacha	2
Edwards Gardens	8	Niagara Escarpment	2
Claremont Field Centre	6	Mansfield Forest	2
Camp Makawa	6		
Maple Sugar Bush	5	Other places mentioned	
Frost Centre, Dorset	5	once*	17
Bruce's Mill	4		
Farm, e.g., Tree Farm, Pony Farm	4		
High Park	4		
Wilket Creek	4		
Cold Creek	3		
Black Creek Village	3		

*Other sites mentioned only once were:

Area around school	McMichael Gallery	King Campus
Camp Artiban	Hockley Valley	Piper's Hill
Algonquin Park	Metro Conservation Areas	Glen Haffey
Kilbear Provincial Park	Earl Bales	Camp Grounds
Palgrave Forest Area	Claireville	Collingwood
Heart Lake	Civic Garden Centre	

The only site preferred by a majority of the seventy-four elementary principals was Forest Valley (78%). Based on where classes had visited in the past two years, a number of principals also preferred Cedar Glen (40%), Albion Hills Field Centre (35%), local ravines/valley (31%) and Boyd Field Centre (20%).

Other sites were mentioned by a few principals including other Conservation Areas in or around Metropolitan Toronto, Metro Parks, shoreline and Zoo and sites outside Toronto, e.g., Frost Centre (Dorset), Doe Lake and Mansfield Forest. Seventeen other areas mainly outside of Metro were listed by individual principals.

Ten principals remarked that this question was not really an appropriate one since certain sites have advantages over others for achieving specific objectives.

QUESTION 12: b) Do you think that your preference of natural sites differs from those of your staff:

TABLE 25

Level	Frequency (N=74)			
	Yes	No	Don't Know	No Answer
1) who teach the primary level?				
No.	13	41	19	1
%	18%	55%	26%	1%
ii) who teach the junior level?				
No.	6	48	18	2
%	8%	65%	24%	3%

The majority of principals (55-65%) believe they do not differ with their staff 's preference of outdoor natural sites. There is a somewhat greater difference between the preference of principals and primary level teachers (18%) than with those of junior level teachers (8%). One-quarter of the principals indicated they did not know whether they differed with either group.

c) If your preferences do differ from those of your staff, which sites do they prefer to visit? (Please indicate the grade level you are referring to).

TABLE 26

Teacher's Preference	Frequency of Differing	
	Primary (N=13)	Junior (N=6)
Forest Valley	10	3
Cedar Glen	6	3
Centre Island	3	-
Camp Makawa	2	2
Local Ravines	2	-
Albion Hills	1	3
Leslie Frost Centre	1	2
Boyd Field Centre	1	1
Local Parks	1	-
Bruce Trail	-	1
Farm, e.g., Tree Farm, Pony Farm	-	1
Camping Sites	-	1

The table above indicates the sites teachers prefer compared to the number of principals who said they preferred alternate sites.

Principals differ most frequently with the primary level teachers (including kindergarten) over the selection of Forest Valley (10) and Cedar Glen (6) as sites for outdoor activities. Fewer principals (3) mentioned differences with junior level teachers concerning the same sites and Albion Hills.

QUESTION 13: a) Have you been actively involved in any aspects of your school's outdoor education program?

TABLE 27

Response	Frequency	
	No.	%
Yes	43	58
No	28	38
Somewhat	1	1
No answer.	2	3
Total	74	100%

More than half of the principals (58%) have been actively involved in different aspects of their school's outdoor program. Approximately 4 out of 10 principals are not actively involved.

b) Please elaborate.

TABLE 28

Response	Frequency (N=72)	
	No.	%
"Yes" Response		
Help supervise students at the site.	51	71
Assist in planning/organizing program, financing, informing/dealing with parents.	23	32
Encourage/train staff/senior students for leadership of outdoor activities.	10	14
Assist in transportation, e.g., equipment delivery, supervise students on bus.	6	8
Member of Outdoor Ed. Committee, N.Y. Principals' Association.	1	1
"No" Response		
Just got here/not at this school/not this year.	3	4
No answer.	6	8

Although 38% said they were not actively involved most listed similar activities to those who said "Yes". All responses which were similar have been collated in the "Yes" responses.

QUESTION 14: b) If "Yes", what type(s) of structured program(s) would you like to have and for which grade level?

TABLE 30

Grade Level	Program	Frequency (N=10)
Primary	- Teachers of Forest Valley to come to the school prior to visits to prepare class.	1
	- Anything.	1
Junior	- Curriculum topic, e.g., river study, geological formations, weather.	2
	- Activities, e.g., orienteering	2
All Levels	- More qualified resource people (naturalists).	1
	- Teachers going to Forest Valley should have specific goals and follow-up activities.	1
No Level Stated	- Every class should have predetermined objectives which do not disrupt other groups, otherwise, plan to use another site.	2
	- Forest Valley should be used as starting point for outdoor education - not the outdoor education site.	1

Among the requests for more structured program were two for curriculum, two for sports activities and two to have classes visiting Forest Valley plan their objectives more carefully so as to not disrupt other groups.

QUESTION 13: b) (continued)

Nearly three-quarters of the principals (71%) help supervise students at the site. One-third assist in planning, financing and dealing with parents. Other involvements included encouraging or assisting in training staff and students for leadership in outdoor activities (14%) and assisting with the transportation of students and equipment (8%).

The reason given by principals who were not involved was they are new at the school or had other commitments this year (4%).

QUESTION 14: a) Do you think a more structured activity program is needed at Forest Valley?

TABLE 29

Response	Frequency	
	No.	%
Yes	10	14
No	54	73
Yes/No	3	4
Don't Know	1	1
No answer.	6	8
Total	74	100%

A large majority of principals (78%) do not believe there is any need for more structured programs at Forest Valley.

QUESTION 15: As a principal, list the major difficulties or problems you have experienced a) in planning class visits and/or b) in administering class visits to Forest Valley.

TABLE 31

Difficulties		Frequency (N=79) No.	%
a) In planning class visits.	Timetabling: scheduling visit to suit needs, too few dates available, bookings requested too far in advance.	10	14
	Transportation.	6	8
	Forest Valley staff not available to assist.	5	7
	Lack of information re: Forest Valley activities, Forest Valley assistance.	3	4
	Encouraging teachers to plan carefully.	2	3
	Limited availability of facilities.	2	3
	Weather.	2	3
	Visits too short.	1	1
	Not enough staff to supervise.	1	1
	Kids and parents not buying concept.	1	1
	Interdisciplinary correlation	1	1
	No problems	35	47
	No answer.	7	9
b) In administering your class visits.	Transportation - buses not always available.	11	15
	Scheduling/booking, program inadequate.	7	9
	Providing adult supervision.	5	7
	Making sure that teachers are well prepared.	2	3
	Assigning days allotted to teachers.	2	3
	Afternoon bookings almost useless.	1	1
	Crowded.	1	1
	Parents frightened at home/on trip.	1	1
	No difficulties.	27	38
	No answer.	26	35

Both in planning and administering visits to Forest Valley, principals listed organizing time e.g., timetabling, scheduling and allotting teachers (26%) and transportation (17%) as the main problems they experienced. Eleven percent of the principals indicated lack of information and assistance from Forest Valley created problems for them during planning.

At least 47% of the principals do not have any problems when planning and 38% in administering visits to Forest Valley.

QUESTION 16: As a Principal, list the major difficulites or problems you have experienced a) in planning class visits and/or b) administering your class visits to other natural sites.

TABLE 32

Difficulties		Frequency (N=74)	
		No.	%
a) In planning your class visits.	Distance/transportation.	11	15
	Finances.	8	11
	Difficulty with other site staff - difficulty communicating/getting assistance/inability of their staff to meet our needs.	6	8
	Getting appropriate site/bookings/availability of facilities.	5	7
	Work load/staffing time/pre-visitation time.	5	7
	Weather.	1	1
	Parent education on purpose and values.	1	1
	No difficulties.	28	38
	No answer.	23	31
b) In administering your class visits.	Transportation/distance.	15	20
	Financing, especially overnight and camping programs/cost.	12	16
	Supervision (arranging timetables to accommodate week long trips.)	7	9
	Emergency situations, i.e., illness, severe weather; injury (liability in law).	4	5
	Lack of knowledge re: programs at other sites.	2	3
	Student-teacher ratio,- controlling students, they wander off, etc.	2	3
	Availability/scheduling.	2	3
	No difficulties.	17	23
	No answer.	21	28

QUESTION 16: (continued)

The five areas principals have the most difficulty with when planning and administering visits to sites other than Forest Valley are:

Transportation/distance	(35%)
Financing	(27%)
Staff timetabling	(16%)
Lack of help/knowledge from the site staff	(11%)
Availability/scheduling of an appropriate site	(10%)

More than a third and potentially as many as two-thirds of the principals (including those not answering), indicated they have no problems in planning. Between 23% and 51% (including the "no answer") had no difficulties administering visits to other sites.

The following five questions deal with your experiences as principal of your present school over the past five years. If you have been principal for less than five years, Please respond from your experiences for as long as you have been principal at your present school.

QUESTION 17: a) Do you feel your attitude toward Forest Valley has changed in the past five years?

TABLE 33

Response	Frequency	
	No.	%
Yes	25	34
No	46	62
Don't Know	3	4
Total	74	100%

Sixty-two percent of principals indicated they had not changed their attitude toward Forest Valley over the past five years. This is almost twice as many as those who had (34%).

QUESTION 17: b) Please explain.

TABLE 34

Explanation	Frequency (N=74)
"Yes" - Positive Change	
Quality of Forest Valley support staff/experiences/structured programs and equipment good.	10
Teachers/students like it/good place to go/not overcrowded/ accessible.	2
Increased use has resulted in a more positive attitude toward outdoor education.	2
Teachers now see Forest Valley as a place for outdoor education, not as a recreational facility.	1
Improved transportation.	1
Better booking system.	1
"Yes" - Negative Change	
Forest Valley "raped"/overused/boring/need new experiences at Forest Valley/kids get tired of it, need new places to go/limiting.	12
Forest Valley overpicked (flora) less natural.	5
Not enough transportation.	4
Should be more structured purpose to trips/lack of follow-up.	2
Lack of co-operation/support from Forest Valley staff.	2
Lack of control/guidance of class studies.	2
Need from strips to outline what's possible.	1
Need more skill oriented programs (P_1 J_1).	1
"No" - Positive Statements	
Satisfaction with facilities, programs, staff/positive feelings; they haven't changed.	15
Forest Valley still a very good starting point.	1
Given the site they have to deal with at Forest Valley, the staff do an excellent job.	1
No answer.	27

Explanation of the principals' responses to part a) were compiled based on whether their statements reflected a positive or negative assessment of Forest Valley. A total of thirty-four positive statements were made by principals who responded both "Yes" and "No". Twenty-seven negative statements were also made by those who had answered "Yes". Twenty-five principals (10 "Yes" and 15 "No") stated they are satisfied with the Forest Valley staff, programs and facilities. Other positive statements included teachers/students like it (2), more positive attitude toward other sites due to use of Forest Valley (2), teachers now see the Centre as a place for outdoor education, not a playground (1) and it is a good starting point (1).

Negative comments were mainly directed at what principals considered to be the overused/ "raped" state of Forest Valley (12) and lack of natural vegetation (5). Among other problems which have caused them to change their attitude are lack of transportation (4), need for more structured purpose for trips (2), poor control of classes (2) and lack of co-operation of Forest Valley staff (2).

QUESTION 18: a) Have there been any changes in your school's programs over the past 5 years as a result of your classes visiting Forest Valley?

TABLE 35

Response	Frequency	
	No.	%
Yes	34	46
No	35	47
Don't know	2	3
No answer.	3	4
Total	74	100%

Nearly half of the principals (46%) indicated they have noticed changes in their school program over the past five years. An equal number (47%) said there has not been any change resulting from classes visiting Forest Valley. In assessing the results of this question, it should be remembered that over half of the principals (54%) have been less than four years at their present school.

b) If "Yes", please list the major changes.

TABLE 36

	Frequency (N=34)	
	No.	%
Stimulated interest in "in-depth" studies and better programs - science and environmental programs/more teaching science.	23	68
Increased involvement in outdoor education - more programs initiated on local sites/more camping/residential experience/hands-on experience.	10	29
Increased use of outdoors for skills application in several programs (i.e., reading, math, language) improvement noted.	5	15
Increased awareness of the educational benefits of outdoor education programs.	3	9
Greater personal interaction between parent and child.	1	3
More experience in developing body awareness program.	1	3

The most frequent change (68%) has been in the science/environmental studies programs, where there is more staff teaching science, using "in-depth" studies and better programs developed. A few principals have noticed an increase in outdoor education involvement (29%), use of the outdoors for skill development in other programs (15%) and a general increased awareness of the benefits derived from outdoor programs (9%).

QUESTION 19: a) As a result of classes visiting Forest Valley over the past five years, have there been any changes in the relations of your school with the local community?

TABLE 37

Response	Frequency	
	No.	%
Yes	11	15
No	55	74
Don't know	4	5
No answer	4	5
Total	74	100%

Most principals indicated visits to ForestValley have not contributed to any changes in the relationship of the school with the community (74%). A few principals (15%) said there have been some changes over the past five years which are related to using the Forest Valley facilities.

It should be remembered that only 20% of the principals have been more than five years at their present school.

b) If "Yes", please list changes in relations with local community.

TABLE 38

Community Relations Changes	Frequency (N=11)
Parents become involved/more familiar with/appreciate value of the school program by helping on trips.	7
Don't know.	4
Forest Valley well received - parents and community have helped finances.	2
Difference in awareness re quality of environment/awareness of keeping the community in good shape.	2
Ethnic parents more permissive with children re overnight trips.	1

Principals indicated parents were more positive in their attitude toward the school program by helping on trips (7), parental appreciation of Forest Valley has aided in obtaining financial support for trips (2), parents are more aware of environmental concerns in the community (2) and ethnic parents are more permissive with children re overnight trips (1). Four principals said they did not know what changes had occurred (possibly due to their not being at the school very long).

QUESTION 20: Have you encouraged any of your teachers in the past five years to participate in any of the following professional activities at Forest Valley?

TABLE 39

Professional Activities	Frequency (N=74)		
	Yes	No	No Answer
i) Staff Professional Development Day	35 (47%)	23 (31%)	16 (22%)
ii) Forest Valley day or evening workshops	57 (77%)	9 (12%)	8 (11%)
iii) Weekend workshops	17 (23%)	36 (49%)	21 (28%)
iv) Other			
Photography	1		
Orientation workshops	1		
Preparation for camping with kids	1		
Social meetings (F.E.A., retirement)	1		
Orientation for all new teachers	1		
Cross country skiing	1		
	1 - 6 (8%)		

In the past five years most principals (77%) have encouraged teachers to participate in Forest Valley workshops. Almost half (47%) of the elementary principals have encouraged teachers to visit Forest Valley during professional development days and twenty-three percent have also encouraged staff to participate in weekend workshops.

A relatively large number of principals indicated they have not encouraged any teachers to attend weekend workshops (49%) or use professional development days to visit Forest Valley (31%) in the past five years. Six principals listed specific activities related to outdoor education which they have promoted staff to participate in, e.g., photography, orientation meetings and cross-country skiing.

Two principals added the following remarks:

- Staff involvement has always been high. Other priorities are necessary, i.e., reading. This person had checked "No" for items (i), (ii) and (iii).
- Not in this school but certainly have endorsed (i) and (ii) in the past.

QUESTION 21: a) In the past 5 years, have you observed any alteration of classroom teaching methods which could be attributed to visits to Forest Valley?

TABLE 40

Response	Frequency	
	No.	%
Yes	28	38
No	38	51
Don't know	3	4
No answer.	5	7
Total	74	100%

More than one-third (38%) of the elementary principals have noticed changes in teaching methods which are attributable to staff visiting Forest Valley. Whereas half see no changes over the past five years. One principal who checked "No" also remarked:

. We've had rapid turnover of teachers.

QUESTION 21: b) If "Yes", please list the types of changes in teaching methods you have noted and indicate in which program areas these changes occurred.

TABLE 41

Program Area	Teaching Method Change	Frequency (N=28)	
		No.	%
Science	- More "hands-on" experience and skill development, e.g., observation, recording, etc. (11) - More acute interest/awareness of natural science. (3) - More use of trips as a culminating and integrating activity. (2) - Better teaching of outdoor activities.(2) - Better long range planning for change in content and behaviour. (1)	19	68
Physical Education	- Teachers have become more aware of the need for daily physical activity in the classroom program. (2) - More orienteering. (2) - More use of outdoors. (1)	5	18
Mathematics	- More "hands-on" experiences. (2) - More use of trips as a culminating and integrating activity. (1) - More application of classroom programs/ content. (1) - More interest in measuring and observing. (1)	5	18
Geography/ Social Studies	- More "hands-on" expereinces. (3) - Increased independence expected from students upon their return. (1)	4	14
Social Development	- More student co-operation in groups /more group projects. (3) - Increased independence expected from students upon their return. (1)	4	14
Language/Art	- More "hands-on" experiences. (2) - Increased use of natural materials in the visual afts field. (1)	3	11

continued .....

QUESTION 21: b) (continued)

Program Area	Teaching Method Change	Frequency (N=28)	
		No	%
No Program Area Stated	- Teachers are more confident/aware /informed and making better use of materials. (7) - Better use of outdoors for integration of other subjects, e.g., science, language, etc. (6) - Teachers are developing new ideas /organization/involvements and changing content. (4) - More preparation and follow-up activities planned around visits to Forest Valley. (3) - More utilization of local sites for particular purposes. (2) - More opportunity for a less formal teaching environment. (2) - There is more desire to study items in their natural setting. (1)	25	89

Most principals who had observed change in teaching methods listed more than one area in which change was related to staff and pupils visiting Forest Valley.

Nineteen (68%) of the twenty-eight principals had observed changes in the science program, mainly the increase in "hands-on" experiences/skill development, e.g.,observation and recording (11) and interest in natural sciences. Changes had also been observed in more use of trips as culminating/integrating activities (2) and better long range planning for change in content and behaviour (1). Other program areas principals believe Forest Valley had influenced were physical education (18%), mathematics (18%), geography/social studies (14%), social development (14%) and language/art (11%). Changes in these programs were similar to those listed for science as well as including mention of increased student independence.

Most principals (89%) listed changes generally throughout their school which could be related to the use of Forest Valley. Five of the seven changes related directly to teaching methods and included: teachers are making better use of materials (7), better integration of other subjects (6), teachers are developing new ideas/organization and involvements (4), more preparation and follow-up activities related to Forest Valley visits (3) and more utilization of local sites (2).

APPENDIX A

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOR THE
BOROUGH OF NORTH YORK

RECEIVED

DATE _____

DIRECTION _____

CROSS FILED _____

TO: North York Elementary Teachers

FROM: Mr. L. Fraser,
Co-ordinator of Outdoor Education

DATE: 1976 10 25

RE: Evaluation of the Forest Valley Outdoor Education Centre

CODE: Educ 3

This year teachers and principals of schools utilizing the Forest Valley Outdoor Education Centre are being asked to complete a questionnaire regarding their perceptions of outdoor education with special reference to Forest Valley. The purpose of the survey is to gather information concerning the aims of Forest Valley Education Centre and your future outdoor education needs.

Teachers visiting Forest Valley during early October and late November, 1976 and early February, 1977 will be sent a questionnaire following their visit to the Centre.

The questionnaire is relatively lengthy due to the amount of information we wish to gather concerning your most recent visit to Forest Valley, your past experience and future needs in outdoor education.

You will receive a copy of the questionnaire in the near future from a staff member of Research and Development who will supply further details.

Your co-operation in completing and returning the questionnaire will be appreciated.

Lloyd Fraser

SENDER'S INSTRUCTIONS

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(DUPLICATE ENCLOSED FOR YOUR FILES)

11805

____NOTE AND CIRCULATE
____NOTE AND DESTROY

APPENDIX B

ELEMENTARY TEACHER QUESTIONNAIRE

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOR THE
BOROUGH OF NORTH YORK

RECEIVED

DATE _____

DIRECTION _____

CROSS FILED _____

TO:

FROM: Murray Rowan, Consultant,
Educational Research & Development.

DATE:

RE: FOREST VALLEY QUESTIONNAIRE.

CODE:

Enclosed with this memo is a questionnaire designed to gather elementary teacher perceptions of Forest Valley, and thereby to aid in evaluating the aims of the Centre.

The questionnaire has been divided into the following sections: 1) your most recent visit with your class to Forest Valley, 2) your past experiences in outdoor education with special reference to Forest Valley, and 3) your future considerations regarding Forest Valley.

Please respond to all questions on an individual basis. Read each of the items on the following pages and respond, according to the instructions, in the space provided. Where written comments are requested, use the back of the page if you find insufficient space has been provided.

Please return the completed questionnaire within one week of receipt to:

Murray Rowan, Consultant,
Educational Research & Development,
5050 Yonge Street,
Willowdale, Ontario.

Individual replies are to be anonymous. An overall analysis will be prepared for the Co-ordinator of Outdoor Education.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Murray Rowan

SENDER'S INSTRUCTIONS
_X_ FOR ACTION
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11805

____ NOTE AND CIRCULATE
____ NOTE AND DESTROY

AN EVALUATION OF FOREST VALLEY OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE IN TERMS OF ELEMENTARY TEACHER DEVELOPMENT AND ATTITUDE CHANGE

This questionnaire has been kept as short and simple as possible considering the scope of the information required. This is a FACT-FINDING survey and all respondents will be ANONYMOUS. Please try to answer the questions as fully as possible.

Please tell us the following information about yourself:

SEX: Male ☐ Female ☐

NUMBER OF YEARS TEACHING IN NORTH YORK:

1 ☐ 4 or 5 ☐ Over 10 ☐

2 or 3 ☐ 6 - 10 ☐

THE GRADE YOU TEACH:

K ☐ Special Education:

1 ☐ Behavioural ☐

2 ☐ Perceptual ☐

3 ☐ Multiple Handicap ☐

4 ☐ Developmental ☐

5 ☐

6 ☐

NUMBER OF PUPILS IN YOUR CLASS:

0 - 10 ☐ 21 - 30 ☐

11 - 20 ☐ 31 - 40 ☐

The Board of Education for the Borough of North York

Department of Educational Research and Development

HOW OFTEN HAVE YOU TAKEN YOUR CLASS TO FOREST VALLEY?

	In the Past Two Years	In the Past Five Years
8 or more times	☐	☐
6 - 7 times	☐	☐
4 - 5 times	☐	☐
2 - 3 times	☐	☐
Once	☐	☐

SECTION I: This section deals with the most recent visit you and your class made to Forest Valley.

1. In your opinion, how worthwhile was your most recent visit to Forest Valley?

a) For your pupils?

Most Worthwhile		Worthwhile		Worthless
1	2	3	4	5
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

b) For yourself?

Most Worthwhile		Worthwhile		Worthless
1	2	3	4	5
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

2. a) Did you or your class formulate objectives prior to the last visit to Forest Valley?

Yes ☐ No ☐

b) If "Yes", list your primary objective(s):

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

c) Do you feel that you accomplished -

All ☐ Some ☐ None ☐ of your primary objectives?

d) If your answered "None" to the above question, what was the major factor(s) impeding you from accomplishing your objectives?

_____

_____

_____

_____

3. a) For your objectives, did you find that the site at Forest Valley was:

More Than Adequate		Adequate		Inadequate
1	2	3	4	5
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

b) If you answered 4 or 5 above, please state the inadequacies of Forest Valley.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

4. a) Did you or your class plan specific activities to be carried out during the most recent visit to Forest Valley?

Yes ☐ No ☐

b) If "Yes", list these activities and indicate the success of each.

	Activity	Very Successful	Successful	Unsuccessful	Not Sure
1.	_____	☐	☐	☐	☐
2.	_____	☐	☐	☐	☐
3.	_____	☐	☐	☐	☐
4.	_____	☐	☐	☐	☐
5.	_____	☐	☐	☐	☐

c) What methods or techniques did you use to evaluate the relative success of your activities at Forest Valley?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

5. a) Would you repeat any of the activities you listed in 4 (b) in subsequent years with the same grade levels? (list all activities and state Yes or No to each)

Activity	Yes	No
1. _____	☐	☐
2. _____	☐	☐
3. _____	☐	☐
4. _____	☐	☐
5. _____	☐	☐

b) Which new activities would you add to your program in subsequent years with the same grade level(s)?

Activity

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

6. a) During your most recent visit, which of the following outdoor areas at Forest Valley did your class use?

Swamp or Pond	☐	Playground	☐
Meadow	☐	Commando Course	☐
Forest	☐	Cookout Areas	☐
River Area	☐	Other: _____	

b) At which area did you spend the most time? (If your class spent equal time in more than one area, place a check mark beside these areas).

Swamp or Pond	☐	Playground	☐
Meadow	☐	Commando Course	☐
Forest	☐	Cookout Areas	☐
River Area	☐	Other: _____	

c) If visiting Forest Valley with the same grade level in subsequent years, will you use the same areas?

Yes ☐ No ☐

d) If answering "No" above, what will you change?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

7. Did you find the staff at Forest Valley -

	YES	IF NO - Check which one of the following was your main reason for not using the staff.		
		Did not need staff help.	Did not know staff help was available	Requested staff help but it was not provided.
i) helpful in planning your last visit?	☐	☐	☐	☐
ii) helpful during your last visit?	☐	☐	☐	☐
iii) helpful after your last visit?	☐	☐	☐	☐

8. Prior to or during your most recent class visit, did you use any of the following resources of Forest Valley?

	YES	IF NO - Check which one of the following was your main reason for not using the resource.		
		Did not need resources.	Did not know resource was available	Requested resource but was not provided.
i) the professional library?	☐	☐	☐	☐
ii) the pre-planned activities?	☐	☐	☐	☐
iii) the prepared units of study?	☐	☐	☐	☐
iv) the equipment and supplies? (e.g. tents, compasses, etc.)	☐	☐	☐	☐
v) Other (please state) _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

9. Why was Forest Valley selected as the outdoor site for your most recent visit?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

10. How frequently have your pupils referred to events at Forest Valley since your last visit?

0 times a day ☐

1 or 2 times a day ☐

3 to 5 times a day ☐

More than 5 times a day ☐

11. If after visiting Forest Valley, you make mention of the events that transpired there, to which program area(s) are you generally speaking? (List names of program areas).

12. What did your pupils like most about a visit to Forest Valley?

13. What did your students like least about a visit to Forest Valley?

SECTION II: This section deals with your past experiences in outdoor education with special reference to Forest Valley.

14. Since you began using Forest Valley, do you feel that your confidence in your ability to teach outdoors has:

increased? ☐

decreased? ☐

not changed? ☐

don't know. ☐

15. a) Have you altered your classroom teaching methods as a result of your visits to Forest Valley?

Yes ☐ No ☐

b) If "Yes", list the type(s) of changes in teaching methods you have made and indicate in which program areas these changes occurred.

Types of Teaching Method Changed	Program Areas

16.a) Do you feel that through visiting Forest Valley you are able to make the subjects covered in the regular classroom program more relevant to the student?

Yes ☐ No ☐

b) Please explain your response to (16 a)

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

17. a) When you visit Forest Valley do you: (Please respond to each of the following)

		Yes	No
i)	Introduce your class to new topics?	☐	☐
ii)	Expand on topics previously introduced in the classroom?	☐	☐
iii)	Conclude topics developed in the classroom?	☐	☐
iv)	Conduct programs not related to classroom program?	☐	☐

b) Which one of the above methods do you perceive you use most often? (check only one box)

i)	Introduce your class to new topics.	☐
ii)	Expand on topics previously introduced in classroom.	☐
iii)	Conclude topic developed in the classroom program.	☐
iv)	Conduct programs not related to classroom program.	☐

18. a) Has your use of Forest Valley lead you to visit other outdoor sites? Yes ☐ No ☐

b) List in order, your preference of natural sites (including Forest Valley) that you and your class have visited in the past two years. Also, indicate the number of times your class has visited each site. (Do not include overnight trips).

Preference	Site	No. of Times Visited
1st	_____	_____
2nd	_____	_____
3rd	_____	_____
4th	_____	_____
5th	_____	_____

19. How much time do you generally spend in preparation for a visit to Forest Valley?

a) Personally -
- no time spent ☐
- 0 - 1 hr. ☐
- 1 - 3 hrs. ☐
- 3 - 5 hrs. ☐
- more than 5 hrs. ☐

b) With your pupils -
- no time spent ☐
- 0 - 1 hr. ☐
- 1 - 3 hrs. ☐
- 3 - 5 hrs. ☐
- more than 5 hrs. ☐

20. How frequently have you used the following Forest Valley support materials in the past five years?

	Very Frequently	Frequently	Infrequently	Never
The professional library	☐	☐	☐	☐
The preplanned activities	☐	☐	☐	☐
The prepared units of study	☐	☐	☐	☐
The equipment and supplies (e.g. tents, compasses, snowshoes, etc.)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other: _____ (please specify)	☐	☐	☐	☐

21. a) What do you do when you encounter bad weather on a scheduled visit to Forest Falley?

i) Switch to a separate bad weather program ☐

ii) Alter your planned activities to suit conditions ☐

iii) Carry on with planned activities and ignore weather ☐

iv) Cancel trip ☐

b) If you answered iv) to above question, why do you cancel your trip?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

22. How did you first become involved in outdoor education?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

23. Have you used any of the following Forest Valley staff support services in the past two years?

	YES	IF NO - Check which one of the following was your main reason for not using the service.		
		Did not need the service	Did not know service was available	Requested service but it was not provided
i) Visits to your school by a resource teacher.	☐	☐	☐	☐
ii) On-site instruction for teachers.	☐	☐	☐	☐
iii) Staff assistance with your class while at the Centre.	☐	☐	☐	☐
iv) Staff assistance with your class away from school. (e.g. overnight trips, day programs away from school, etc.).	☐	☐	☐	☐
v) Other: _____ (Please specify)	☐	☐	☐	☐

24. Do the following people encourage you: (Please respond to each of the following).

a) to increase your frequency of use of outdoor facilities?	Yes	No	Don't Know
My family assistant superintendent	☐	☐	☐
My school administration	☐	☐	☐
My students	☐	☐	☐
Parents of my students	☐	☐	☐
Other teachers	☐	☐	☐
b) to take further training in outdoor teaching methods?			
My family assistant superintendent	☐	☐	☐
My school administration	☐	☐	☐
Other teachers	☐	☐	☐
Parents of my students	☐	☐	☐
Other: _____ (Please specify)	☐	☐	☐

25. Have you taken part in any of the following professional activities at Forest Valley?

		Yes	No
i)	Staff professional development days	☐	☐
ii)	Forest Valley day or evening workshop	☐	☐
iii)	Weekend workshops	☐	☐
iv)	Other: _____	☐	☐

26. List the main problems or difficulties you experienced when planning and/or carrying out an outdoor program at Forest Valley.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

27. What, in your opinion, is the greatest value(s) of outdoor education for students at your grade level?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

SECTION III: This section deals with your future considerations regarding outdoor education.

28. In planning an outdoor education experience for my grade level, I am looking for a site that offers:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

29. Indicate by means of a check in the appropriate square during which season(s) you prefer to visit Forest Valley and whether during that season(s) you prefer to spend a half-day or a full-day at the centre.

Season	Length of Visit	
	Half-day	Full-day
Fall ☐	☐	☐
Winter ☐	☐	☐
Spring ☐	☐	☐
No preference of season ☐	No preference of visit length ☐	

30. a) Do you think that a more structured activity program is needed for use by your grade level at Forest Valley?

Yes ☐ No ☐

b) If you answered "Yes" to the previous question, what type(s) of structured program(s) do you desire?

Thank you for your co-operation

APPENDIX C

ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL QUESTIONNAIRE

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOR THE
BOROUGH OF NORTH YORK

RECEIVED

DATE _____

DIRECTION _____

CROSS FILED _____

TO: Principal, _____ Elementary School

FROM: M. Rowan, Consultant,
Educational Research & Development.

DATE:

RE: FOREST VALLEY QUESTIONNAIRE.

CODE:

Enclosed with this memo is a questionnaire designed to gather your perceptions of outdoor education with special reference to Forest Valley. A teacher (or teachers) from your school have visited Forest Valley and have completed a similar questionnaire during the school year.

As principal you are responsible for outdoor programs at your school. Therefore, your perspective of the overall situation with respect to Forest Valley is much broader than that of individual teachers. For this reason we would appreciate your careful attention in answering the following questionnaire.

Please respond on an individual basis. Read each of the following items and respond, according to the instructions, in the space provided. Where written comments are requested, use the back of the page if you find insufficient space has been provided.

Please return the completed questionnaire within one week of receipt to:

Murray Rowan, Consultant,
Educational Research & Development,
5050 Yonge Street,
Willowdale, Ontario.

Individual replies are to be anonymous. An overall analysis will be prepared for the Co-ordinator of Outdoor Education.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Murray Rowan

SENDER'S INSTRUCTIONS

X FOR ACTION
___ FOR INFORMATION
___ REPLY ON COPY AND RETURN
(DUPLICATE ENCLOSED FOR YOUR FILES)

11805

___ NOTE AND CIRCULATE
___ NOTE AND DESTROY

AN EVALUATION OF FOREST VALLEY OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE IN TERMS OF ELEMENTARY TEACHER DEVELOPMENT AND ATTITUDE CHANGE

Please respond on an individual basis. Read each of the following items and respond, according to the instructions, in the space provided. Where written comments are requested use the back of the page if you find insufficient space has been provided. Individual replies are to remain anonymous.

Please tell us the following information about your school.

NUMBER OF TEACHERS:

Under 15 ☐ 26 - 36 ☐

15 - 25 ☐ Over 36 ☐

NUMBER OF PUPILS:

Under 200 ☐

200 - 500 ☐

501 - 800 ☐

801 - 1100 ☐

Over 1100 ☐

NUMBER OF YEARS AS PRINCIPAL OF THIS SCHOOL:

First year ☐ 6 or 7 years ☐

2 or 3 years ☐ More than 7 years ☐

4 or 5 years ☐

NUMBER OF YEARS AS PRINCIPAL IN NORTH YORK:

First year ☐ 6 or 7 years ☐

2 or 3 years ☐ More than 7 years ☐

4 or 5 years ☐

****

1. a) How important is the use of Forest Valley Outdoor Education Centre in fulfilling the goals of your school?

Very Important				Not at all Important
1	2	3	4	5
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

b) List the goals of your school which are best supported by Forest Valley.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

2. In your opinion, how worthwhile are outdoor activities at Forest Valley:

a) <u>for your teachers</u>?

Most Worthwhile				Worthless
1	2	3	4	5
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

b) <u>for your pupils</u>?

Most Worthwhile				Worthless
1	2	3	4	5
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

3. a) Approximately what proportion of the teachers on your staff have involved their classes in outdoor activities at Forest Valley in the past two years?

0-25%	26-50%	51-75%	76-100%
☐	☐	☐	☐

b) Would you line to see the proportion of your teachers using Forest Valley (check only one box) -

to increase? ☐ to decrease? ☐ to remain the same? ☐

4. a) Approximately what proportion of the teachers on your staff have involved their classes in outdoor activities at other natural sites (excluding Forest Valley) in the past two years?

0-25%	26-50%	51-75%	76-100%
☐	☐	☐	☐

b) Would you like to see the proportion of your teachers using other natural sites to (check only one box)-

increase? ☐ decrease? ☐ remain the same? ☐

5. What proportion of the pupils enrolled in your school participated in outdoor education during this school year: (1976-77)

a) at Forest Valley?

Under 10% ☐
10% - 30% ☐
30% - 50% ☐
50% - 70% ☐
70% - 90% ☐
Over 90% ☐

b) at other natural sites?

Under 10% ☐
10% - 30% ☐
30% - 50% ☐
50% - 70% ☐
70% - 90% ☐
Over 90% ☐

6. Are you being encouraged in any way to increase your school's involvement in outdoor education programs: (Please respond to each of the following).

a) at Forest Valley?	Yes	No	Don't Know
by teachers	☐	☐	☐
by pupils	☐	☐	☐
by your family assistant superintendent	☐	☐	☐
by parents of your pupils	☐	☐	☐
other (please state) _____			
_____	☐	☐	☐

b) at other natural sites?	Yes	No	Don't Know
by teachers	☐	☐	☐
by pupils	☐	☐	☐
by your family assistant superintendent	☐	☐	☐
by parents of your pupils	☐	☐	☐
other (please state) _____			
_____	☐	☐	☐

7. a) Do you perceive that there are any benefits accrued by pupils through visiting Forest Valley that could not have otherwise been obtained through the regular classroom program?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Don't know ☐

b) If you do perceive that there are benefits for your pupils, which grade level(s) from your school receive the greatest benefit(s)?

Not applicable ☐

K ☐
1 ☐
2 ☐
3 ☐
4 ☐
5 ☐
6 ☐

Special Education:
Developmental ☐
Perceptual ☐
Behavioural ☐
Multiple Handicap ☐

c) Please list these important benefits.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

8. a) Do you perceive that there are any benefits accrued by pupils through visits to other natural sites that could not have otherwise been obtained through the regular classroom program? (Please exclude Forest Valley).

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know ☐

b) If you do perceive that there are benefits for your pupils, which grade level(s) from your school receive the greatest benefit(s)?

Not applicable ☐

K ☐ 4 ☐
1 ☐ 5 ☐
2 ☐ 6 ☐
3 ☐

Special Education:
Developmental ☐
Perceptual ☐
Behavioural ☐
Multiple Handicap ☐

c) Please list these important benefits.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

9. What priority do you give to outdoor education programs in your school, relative to other programs?

Very High		Average		Very Low
1	2	3	4	5
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

10. Are you able to get sufficient time (bookings) at Forest Valley to:

	Yes	No	Don't Know
a) satisfy your pupils' needs?			
i) at the primary level	☐	☐	☐
ii) at the junior level	☐	☐	☐
b) satisfy staff requests?			
i) at the primary level	☐	☐	☐
ii) at the junior level	☐	☐	☐

11. a) Do you encourage your teachers to increase the involvement of their classes in outdoor education?

Yes ☐ No ☐

b) If "Yes", please state why you encourage more involvement.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

12. a) List in order, your preference of natural sites (including Forest Valley) that classes from your school have visited over the past two years.

Preference	Site
1st	_____
2nd	_____
3rd	_____
4th	_____
5th	_____
6th	_____

b) Do you think that your preferences of natural sites differ from those of your staff –

	Yes	No	Don't Know
i) who teach the primary level?	☐	☐	☐
ii) who teach the junior level?	☐	☐	☐

c) If your preferences do differ from those of your staff, which sites do they prefer to visit? (Please indicate the grade level you are referring to).

Preference	Site	Grade Level: Primary	Grade Level: Junior
1st	_____	☐	☐
2nd	_____	☐	☐
3rd	_____	☐	☐
4th	_____	☐	☐

13. a) Have you been actively involved in any aspect of your school's outdoor education program?

Yes ☐ No ☐

b) Please elaborate: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

14. a) Do you think that a more structured activity program is needed at Forest Valley?

Yes ☐ No ☐

b) If "Yes", what type(s) of structured program(s) would you like to have available and for which grade level?

Grade Level	Type of Structured Program

15. As a Principal, list the major difficulties or problems you have experienced a) in planning and/or b) in administrating class visits to Forest Valley.

a) in planning _____

_____

_____

b) in administrating _____

_____

_____

16. As a Principal, list the major difficulties or problems you have experienced a) in planning and/or b) administrating your class visits to other natural sites.

a) in planning _____

_____

_____

b) in administrating _____

_____

_____

The following five questions deal with your experiences as principal of your present school over the past five years. If you have been principal for less than five years, please respond from your experiences for as long as you have been principal at your present school.

17. a) Do you feel your attitude toward Forest Valley has changed in the past five years?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Don't Know ☐

b) Please explain: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

18. a) Have there been any changes in your school's programs over the past five years as a result of your classes visiting Forest Valley?

Yes ☐ No ☐

b) If "Yes", please list the major changes.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

19. a) As a result of classes visiting Forest Valley over the past five years, have there been any changes in the relations of your school with the local community?

Yes ☐ No ☐

b) If "Yes", please list these changes in relations with the local community.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

20. Have you encouraged any of your teachers in the past five years to participate in any of the following professional activities at Forest Valley?

	Yes	No
i) Staff professional development day	☐	☐
ii) Forest Valley day or evening workshops	☐	☐
iii) Weekend workshops	☐	☐
iv) Other (please state) _____		
_____	☐	☐

21. a) In the past five years, have you observed any alteration of classroom teaching methods which could be attributed to visits to Forest Valley?

Yes ☐ No ☐

b) If "Yes", please list the type(s) of changes in teaching methods you have noted and indicate in which program areas these changes occurred.

Types of Teaching Method Changed	Program Area

Thank you for your co-operation